

No 61,602

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Work... George Walden, MP, on the unwillingness of top people to get on their bikes... and play The Times Guide to the World Athletics Championships... Birds... Philip Howard looks at the birds down his way... of a father Helen Mason meets fathers cut off from their children... War... Sri Lanka's Parliament debates the riots... game The draw for the semi-final of the NatWest Cricket Trophy... Right or wrong The Gillick judgment gives courts more rights than parents over children. Is this as it should be?

Conviction of 34 in IRA trial

The judge in Belfast's IRA trial has convicted 34 of the 38 defendants and cleared three. Mr Justice Basil Kelly continued detailing the evidence of Christopher Black, the Provisional IRA "supergrass", on whose word the charges were brought. Page 2

US sends flour to Sri Lanka

The United States is sending 30,000 tonnes of wheat flour to Sri Lanka after a plea by Colombo for aid to relieve food shortages caused by the riots. Page 4

Dollar struggle

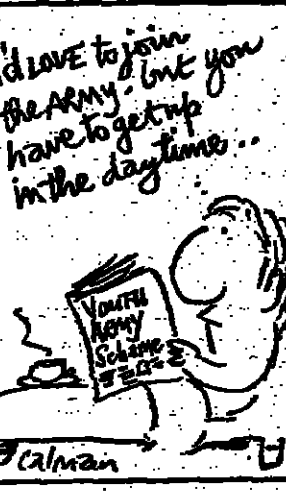
Heavy intervention on world currency markets by the central banks of five leading countries only partly succeeded in checking the rise of the dollar. Page 17

Cell pressures

Prisoners awaiting trial are cramped during exercise at a London police station forced by prison overcrowding to keep two men in single cells. Page 2

Golfer 'serious'

Jack Newton, the Australian golfer who lost an arm when he walked into an aircraft propeller, is in a "very serious" condition after abdominal surgery.



Chasing treble

Middlesex are chasing a cricketing treble after beating Northamptonshire in the NatWest Trophy. The Benson and Hedges Cup holders, Middlesex also lead the county championship. Page 21

Leader page 9

Letters: On the dollar from Professor H W Singer, and Sir Alan Neele; radioactive waste from Mr James Slater; Announcements from DM Thomas. Leading articles: NHS finances; foreign correspondents in southern Africa; French restrictions on day trippers. Features, pages 6, 8. Over-reacting to the typhoid outbreak: back comes the TUC carthorse; Ronald Butt on the Labour explosion yet to come; a profile of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Arab Aviation, pages 11-14: A four-page Special Report looks at the Arab airlines following their oil-funded spending spree on aircraft and technology over the past decade. Books, page 7. Anthony Quinton surveys the riotous lives of MPs in the seventeenth century. Kay Dick reviews a life of Pasternak and Rory Coonan looks at photographs of Tibet before the Chinese arrived. Obituaries, page 10. Mr James Archibald, Miss Josephine Foss.

Three killed as jet crashes off Gibraltar

By Rodney Cowton Defence Correspondent The crew of three were killed when an RAF Canberra jet bomber crashed into the sea shortly after taking off from Gibraltar yesterday. The aircraft was on its way back to its base at RAF Wyton, in Huntingdonshire, after taking part in exercises.

Government to identify job-creating sectors

By Edward Townsend Industrial Correspondent A new government initiative to identify the sectors in which jobs are most likely to be created in post-recession Britain was promised yesterday by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Labour told it has one year to crush the Alliance

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter Members of Labour's Shadow Cabinet and some MPs have received a stark analysis of the party's general election defeat which says that unless it beats off the challenge from the Liberal-Social Democratic Party Alliance within 12 months, Labour will go into the next election as the third party.

Thatcher in hospital for major eye surgery

By Our Political Reporter Mrs Margaret Thatcher underwent a serious operation yesterday on her damaged right eye after laser treatment failed. The Prime Minister was taken straight to hospital for immediate surgery after visiting a Harley Street specialist early yesterday afternoon.

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Members of Labour's Shadow Cabinet and some MPs have received a stark analysis of the party's general election defeat which says that unless it beats off the challenge from the Liberal-Social Democratic Party Alliance within 12 months, Labour will go into the next election as the third party. Labour's senior politicians are told that the shift of votes away from the party to the Alliance between the 1979 and 1983 general elections represented an electoral "earthquake" and this shift suggests that Labour's performance in early parliamentary by-elections, next May's local elections and the following month's European Assembly elections will determine whether the same thing happens again.

US sends Chad \$7m military supplies

From Mahsin Ali Washington The United States yesterday announced that it had sent military supplies worth \$7m (\$4.6m), including anti-aircraft equipment, to the Chad Government to help it in its fight against Libyan-backed dissident forces in Northern Chad.

Striking print union accepts £13 peace formula to bring back FT

By Paul Rontledge, Labour Editor The Financial Times should be back on the streets early next week after a strike of more than two months that has cost the company an estimated £10m.

Americans step up Salvador aid

From a Staff Reporter Guatemala and El Salvador, the main allies of the United States in Central America, are to be given extra US food aid in an attempt to focus attention on the economic aspects of Washington's policy in the region.

Beith heads Liberal lists for deputy chief

By John Winder Four Liberal MPs are seen as possible contenders if the party assembly decides in September that Mr David Steel should have an elected deputy. The "if" may be a big one, for some MPs were arguing yesterday that the assembly discussions might well lead to a quite different future strategy.

Coconut invaders get orders to quit atoll

Britain is seeking to evict a group of coconuts from an island who have landed illegally on a remote Indian Ocean island atoll near the military base in Diego Garcia.

Lawson initiative signals start of three-way debate

Government to identify job-creating sectors The CBI survey showed that industry expects to shed jobs at between 10,000 and 12,000 a month at least until the autumn.

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Thatcher in hospital for major eye surgery

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Mrs Thatcher leaves Downing Street with Dr John Henderson before yesterday's operation.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher underwent a serious operation yesterday on her damaged right eye after laser treatment failed. The Prime Minister was taken straight to hospital for immediate surgery after visiting a Harley Street specialist early yesterday afternoon.

In an examination lasting 50 minutes the specialist found that a minor operation carried out on Sunday, details of which were disclosed only yesterday, had not succeeded in repairing a tear in the retina, which had become partly detached.

Downing Street said Mrs Thatcher was expected to be in hospital for two or three days and resume her normal programme next week, when she is due to go on a fortnight's holiday to Switzerland. But Mr John Shilling, a London eye-specialist, said in a television interview last night that it might take up to a month to recover fully from such an operation.

Lord Whitelaw, who would take control of the Government if Mrs Thatcher had to rest for a long time, was said to be standing by at his farm near Penrith, Cumbria, to take on urgent duties. But there was no suggestion that he would return to London yet.

Downing Street insisted that Mrs Thatcher would continue to run the Government while in hospital and would keep in touch with her officials by telephone.

The aim of yesterday's operation carried out under general anaesthetic, was to stick together separated layers of the eye with a surgical freezing technique.

An extremely cold instrument is applied to the eyeball and the ultra cold temperature is transmitted to the separated retinal layer and sticks it back. Downing Street said Mrs Thatcher would have to wear dark glasses for 24 hours after the operation.

In accordance with Mrs Thatcher's wishes Downing Street declined to reveal where the operation took place or who conducted it. The Prime Minister, who belongs to the British United Provident Association (BUPA), is receiving private treatment.

The fact that Mrs Thatcher had already undergone a minor operation was not disclosed until the announcement that she was going into hospital. Downing Street had referred earlier in the week to "minor damage" to the retina and

declined to specify the nature of the treatment received. Her own doctor, Dr John Henderson, had said there were clear signs of improvement.

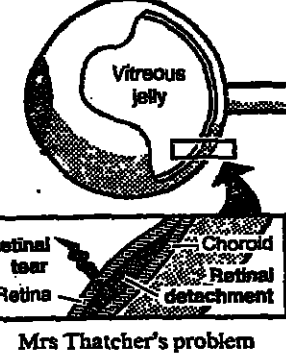
The earlier operation was carried out under local anaesthetic. A special contact lens was fitted over the eye, through which laser beams were focused in an attempt to seal the tear.

It was said last night to have had a 70 per cent chance of success. Downing Street said the success rate for the second operation was 95 per cent for a detached retina and even better than that for Mrs Thatcher's condition, in which only a tiny part of the retina separated.

In people of the Prime Minister's age the vitreous jelly in the inner eye contracts (writes our medical correspondent). If the jelly is unusually adherent to the retina this contraction tears the hole, allowing fluid to spread under the retina, which is then lifted.

The aim of the laser treatment which Mrs Thatcher had was to seal the hole to halt the fluid.

The second operation probably took about an hour.



Mrs Thatcher's problem

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Leaders of the National Graphical Association last night accepted a peace formula agreed in secret talks with the company and the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

The 24 machine-minders whose stoppage closed the paper will receive a £13-a-week guaranteed increase, taking their weekly pay to £317 for 32 hours. They were claiming £322.

The settlement, which has to be confirmed in a return-to-work agreement to be negotiated today by NGA officials and the newspaper's management, removes the threat of the craft print union's suspension from the TUC.

The TUC general council was due to meet this morning to suspend the NGA for refusing to abide by "formal advice" that it should accept the award recommended by an Acas-appointed mediator. The mediator said the men should not have more than they were paid before the strike.

The TUC will not now consider the disciplinary action, and Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, said he was delighted at the outcome of the 16 hours of negotiations which resulted in a settlement much

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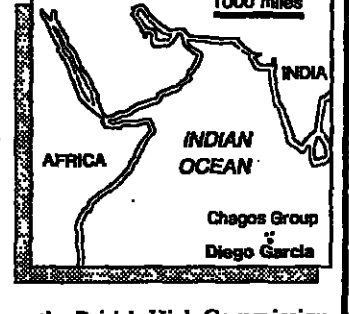
Coconut invaders get orders to quit atoll

Britain is seeking to evict a group of coconuts from an island who have landed illegally on a remote Indian Ocean island atoll near the military base in Diego Garcia.

The Foreign Office confirmed last night that a ship had landed the merchants on a small island in the Chagos group. Although the incident seems similar to the South Georgia "invasion" by Argentine seamen, the islanders, which led to the Falklands war last year, no gunboat diplomacy is envisaged in the Indian Ocean, it is understood.

The Navy Lieutenant-Commander commanding the 39-strong party of sailors and Royal Marines in Diego Garcia is acting in his civilian capacity as a deputy commissioner to ensure the illegal immigrants leave.

A Foreign Office Spokesman said: "An approach was made



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TUC will drop boycott of Tebbitt and test the ice, Murray predicts

By Paul Rintledge, Labour Editor

The TUC will drop its boycott of contacts with Mr Norman Tebbitt, the Secretary of State for Employment, in a move to test government intentions towards the unions, Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, predicted yesterday.

In an interview with *The Times* conducted after publication of the preliminary agenda for the September TUC conference in Blackpool, he said: "We have to be free to go in and test the ice."

"That is why it is important that we should go and talk to Mr Tebbitt about his union legislation, not only about those proposals but to try to make a judgment about the attitude of the Government."

"It is the one way to find out what they are thinking and what they are intending to do, not just what they are saying. We may fail. We may find the frost is still there, in which case I would not see much advantage to the TUC in merely slithering about on the ice. But we have got to find out."

Militant engineering white-collar workers are urging next month's conference to reject "any discussion with the

Government on the subject of anti-union legislation," but after a close vote on the TUC General Council, Mr Murray believes there will be a substantial majority for lifting the ban on talks with Mr Tebbitt.

The minister had invited the TUC for discussions on his recent White Paper on democracy in the unions. That envisages compulsory secret ballots for internal union elections and the removal of legal immunity from strikes which have not been sanctioned by a ballot of those involved.

But the issue on which the TUC hopes to make some headway is the Minister's controversial proposal to make the operation of trade union political funds subject to a ballot veto every ten years. On that point they believe Mr Tebbitt is still open to persuasion.

Mr Murray is also confident that a move by the National Graphical Association to get the TUC out of the National Economic Development Council will be defeated. "It is a balance of advantage to be in Neddy," he said. "Like going to

see Tebbitt, it is a balance of advantage. Those who want to abolish Neddy are those who do not want to talk to the Government."

"We can make it perfectly clear we do not accept the policies of the Government, but while saying we do not accept them, we are affected by them. We have to recognize that as fact."

Mr Murray also predicted "a long and full reappraisal of our economic policies" in the wake of the Blackpool Congress.

'Union of the unemployed'

● The TUC is to try to win back the 1,500,000 "lost comrades" who have left unions in the last four years. A motion before congress next month, and almost certain to be passed, will aim to issue special TUC cards to former trade unionists who are unemployed.

The "Union of the unemployed" is proposed in a resolution from the National Union of Journalists.

Getting ready to talk, page 8

Judge convicts 34 of IRA terror crimes

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Thirty-four people have been convicted of terrorist crimes on the word of a Provisional IRA supergrass yesterday when the Belfast Crown Court judge ended the second day of his judgment in Ireland's longest trial.

Mr Justice Basil Kelly cleared three of the 38 defendants implicated by Christopher Black. Today he will deal with the one remaining man accused of murdering the Maze prison's deputy governor in 1978.

Those convicted on the 118th day of the trial included the youngest defendant, aged 20, and the oldest, Mrs Rose Harvey, a 71-year-old grandmother, who allowed her home to be used by the IRA.

Others convicted included Gerald Loughlin, officer commanding the Provisionals' Third Battalion, Tobias McMahon, an explosives expert, and Kevin Mulgrew, the leader of an active service unit.

The public gallery was crowded as Mr Justice Kelly went through Mr Black's evidence

about a murder, conspiracy to murder, possession of arms and knee-cappings.

The 32 men and five women have been convicted of a number of terrorist charges. Mulgrew, Loughlin and Charles McKiernan, have been convicted of murdering a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment.

The judge said Mr Black's role was "more than peripheral" as he had addressed a letter used by a gunman disguised as a postman to lure the man to his death.

Another six people involved in setting up the killing were found guilty of less serious charges.

Mrs Pauline McKinney, aged 42, and her son, Mark, 20, were convicted of Provisional IRA membership, and her husband, Edward 45, was convicted of possessing a firearm.

The judge is wearing a bullet-proof vest as part of the tight security at the court. When the trial is over he may be given protection for life.

Tourists not deterred by typhoid

While some holidaymakers cut short their stay on the Greek island of Kos because of the typhoid outbreak and flew back to Britain, others were flying out to begin their holidays yesterday.

So far official figures have 12 confirmed typhoid cases and 12 suspected, but hospitals in Britain say that the numbers are higher. Most of the cases involve people who stayed at the Ramada Beach Hotel on the island early in June.

One holiday firm, Thomson, said yesterday that six of their 90 clients staying at the hotel had cut short their holiday, but more than 20 other people were flying out after being given the option of cancelling with a full refund.

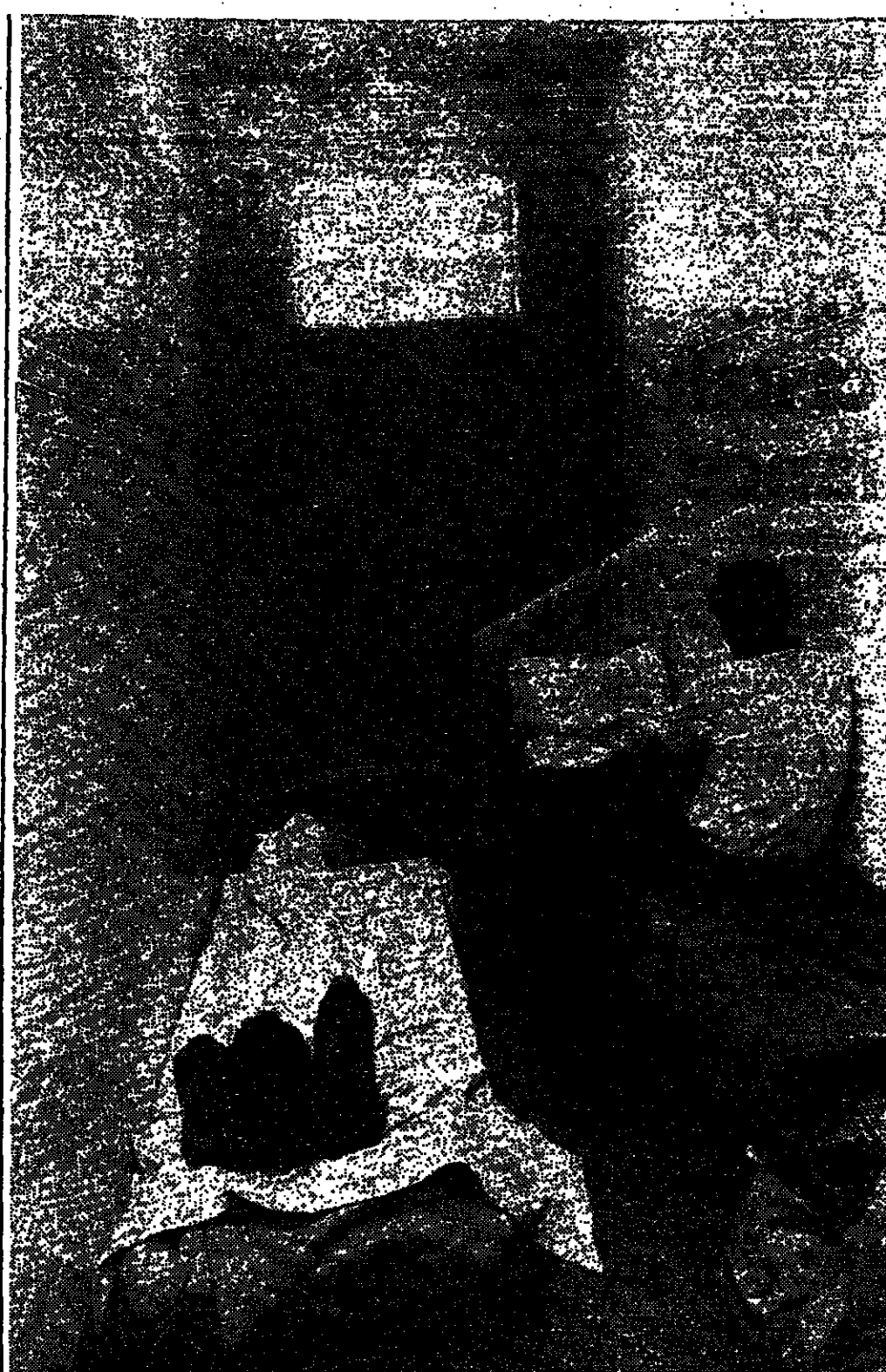
The Department of Health said yesterday that thousands of holidaymakers did not realize that vaccinations were recommended for most parts of the Mediterranean, including Spain, Portugal, Greece, Italy, Turkey and North Africa.

But travel agents may not always pass on the recommendation to those booking holidays, the Association of British Travel Agents (Abta) admitted. "We have to advise the necessary vaccinations," an Abta spokesman said, referring to those diseases, like yellow fever, against which protection is compulsory to enter certain countries.

In Bristol, Doctors said yesterday that there was a shortage of typhoid vaccine and hundreds of families planning holidays abroad had been unable to get their prescriptions filled.

● Public health authorities in Madrid said yesterday that outbreaks of typhoid fever and legionnaires' disease in eastern Spain were under control (a Madrid Correspondent writes). In Murcia four elderly patients in a psychiatric hospital have died of typhoid fever during the past week. The hospital's water supply became contaminated as the result of a broken water main.

Understanding typhoid, page 8



Two prisoners sharing a single cell at Arbour Square police station.

Why Nell's victory is crucial

By Richard Evans

While most working women in Britain may not take kindly to being compared with Nell Gwynne, millions are certainly taking the same pay discrimination suffered by the actress who featured in this week's much-publicized industrial tribunal.

The sad truth for women, 13 years after Britain led the field in introducing equal pay legislation, is that their average earnings are still only three quarters of those paid to men, and many even earn less than their male counterparts for work of equal value.

Under the existing Equal Pay Act a woman can claim equal pay with a man for work which is "like" his or has been "rated as equivalent" by a job evaluation scheme, but she cannot claim it where she is doing different work, albeit of equal value to the employer.

The loophole is particularly damaging to women in industries where they monopolise one job, and therefore cannot compare their wages with those of a man.

In the clothing industry job segregation has traditionally required women to be the machinists and men the cutters. Although they contribute equally to producing clothes, men have always been paid more. Likewise, women who tend to dominate the production and packing lines



Gwynne Miles, the actress who pioneered a principle.

in the food processing industry earn less than men involved with warehousing and distribution.

In theory, women's chances of equal pay for equal work should improve dramatically from the beginning of next year. For the Government, rapped over the knuckles by the European Court of Justice, is in the process of widening the scope of legislation.

Under a draft order laid before Parliament shortly before the summer recess, women will be allowed to claim equal pay for work which is of equal value to a man's in terms of the effort, skill and decision-making required.

Industrial tribunals which hear claims would be able to commission reports from inde-

pendent experts on whether jobs were of equal value.

But critics say parts of the order are so badly drafted that it is bound to be thrown out by Parliament, and in any case it may not satisfy the European court.

The performance of Mr Alan Clark, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Employment, who unveiled the proposals before the Commons, only served to confirm doubts about the Government's determination to enforce equal pay.

He angered MPs of all parties with his apparent lack of commitment to the principle of the new measure.

And so the victory of Nell Gwynne, alias Miss Gannor Miles in successfully claiming she should have been paid as much as two male cost jesters in a restaurant entertainment is being hailed as crucial.

Ms Di Tremborth of the Equal Opportunities Commission, who thinks a majority of women probably suffer from pay discrimination, said yesterday she hoped the case would persuade more women to come forward with genuine claims.

"It is going to make both employees and employers question what this concept of equal value is all about, and whether it applies to them."

Manacles used on remand prisoners at police stations

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Prisoners on remand in London police cells are being manacled together for exercise which might last no more than a quarter of an hour a day and are sometimes guarded by police dogs.

The rest of the time is spent sharing with another prisoner a cell smaller than those in prisons for the Victorians built to hold one person.

The cells, in Arbour Square Police Station in London's East End, were shown to journalists for the first time yesterday. They have been pressed into emergency use because of lack of room in London's overcrowded jails.

Inspector Roger Moore said at Arbour Square yesterday that there were no proper facilities for the police to assume responsibility for prisoners not in jails. "We have no laid-down minimum for exercise. The yard is used for exercise purposes when it is available." It also serves as an entrance to a magistrate's court and a police compound for vehicles. The No. three area dog section is at the station.

Use of dogs at exercise time was not a prerequisite, Inspector Moore said, but if they were there while prisoners were in the yard "it would be natural to say 'hang on'". There has been one attempted escape from Arbour Square.

There is one washbasin in the corridor outside the four cells which house eight prisoners. But if they want to use a shower upstairs they can do so if there are officers to supervise them.

There is a lavatory in the cell, but no privacy. Each cell contains only one bed. The other prisoner lies on a mattress on the floor, sometimes for much of the day. There is little else to do and almost no space in which to do it, though prisoners can have radios to listen to. There are no ward-robes or cupboards.

They have little complaint about food or visits, though one prisoner said it was sometimes difficult to keep in touch with relatives. After a court appearance they might be moved to another police station.

Another prisoner told me that because police did not have enough staff to man the station, they had tried, unsuccessfully, to shorten a half-hour interview with his lawyer to prepare his case.

Conditions compare badly with those even in overcrowded prisons and remand centres where much more time is spent out of cells. "I seem to take it out on visitors", one prisoner said. "I get wound up more because I am banged up for so much of the day."

For the Prison Department, which means all the cost of keeping prisoners in police cells, the emergency is expensive. In the first two months of this financial year, use of police and court cells has cost £1.4m. The total cost in 1982-83 was £3.4m. Mr Leo Brannan, Home Secretary said on July 21 that he was determined to ensure that the use of police cells to hold prisoners was eliminated before the end of the year. On Monday there were 268 people in police cells, 153 of them in the Metropolitan Police area and the rest in those of surrounding forces.

● The Prison Department was yesterday studying the implications of a clash between black remand prisoners and white prisoners in Wormwood Scrubs jail, west London on Tuesday.

The trouble began when a prison officer tried to break up a fight between a black prisoner and a white prisoner. Ten other prisoners, six black and four white, then joined in.

In the end the clash involved nearly half of the prisoners in the severely overcrowded B wing. There were minor scratches and bruises to 11 inmates, and of 11 officers needing medical examination, three went off duty, according to the department.

Attack on NHS care at cut price

By Our Social Service Correspondent

Private patients are getting cut-rate treatment in health service hospitals, some of which are not even collecting the money, Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS), the white-collar union, claimed yesterday.

People who may have paid to jump the queue, were being charged £5.50 for an electrocardiograph test, £5 for any number of tests on a blood specimen and £3.50 for a single physiotherapy session.

Mr Terry Comerford, the ASTMS national officer, said: "We have reproduced this information in a leaflet for wide circulation to show the taxpayers the level of rip-off by the private health sector."

"Mrs Thatcher should be doing something about these charges rather than attempting to save money by sacking health service workers and closing hospitals."

Reply over Nigerians' tuition fees

By Our Education Correspondent

The nine British universities and polytechnics accused by the Nigerians this week of refusing to give vital information which would enable Nigerian students to pay their fees said yesterday either that they had given the details requested or that they had few problems.

"The Nigerian High Commission seems to be passing the buck," Mr Ted Bell, senior assistant registrar of Reading University said. "While it is true that we are not prepared to give complete information about all our Nigerian students, we have given information about the students who owe fees or on whose behalf fees are owed."

Hatfield Polytechnic, Oxford Polytechnic, Sussex University, King's College, and the London School of Economics, say they do not have any problem with unpaid fees, but that they respect the confidentiality of information provided by students.

MP calls for inquiry after firm secretly closes

The Government was last night asked to suspend share dealings and investigate the affairs of two companies, one of whose workers returned from holiday to find that their factory's machinery and equipment had been removed.

Employees of Nova (Jersey) Knit, plc, found the gates locked at their factory in Ystrad Mynach, Mid Glamorgan, and were later told by letter to go to work on Monday to hear details of redundancy payments.

Union officials later discovered that the machinery, had been

located in Nottingham, at the W. E. Saxby factory.

Last night Mr Ron Davies, Labour MP for Gwynedd, contacted Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and demanded that share dealing in both companies be suspended.

Union representatives are to meet Mr Frederick Strasser, chairman of Nova Knit tomorrow.

Last night Mr Strasser said he could not comment before the publication of the company's annual report to shareholders today.

Police seek taxi driver

Scotland Yard yesterday began searching for a London taxi driver who may have vital information in the search for the killer of Mr Peter Arne, aged 63, the actor found battered to death in his Knightsbridge flat last Monday.

Police know that Mr Arne visited a theatrical costumeier on Monday morning. He was picked up from the firm, in

Clerkenwell, by taxi shortly after midday. At about 2pm neighbours heard a commotion in Mr Arne's flat in Hans Place and later police found his body.

Police want to know where the taxi driver was ordered to take his passenger.

An inquest into Mr Arne's death was adjourned at Westminster Magistrate's Court yesterday until the end of August.

Numbers worry polytechnics

A record number of students went to Britain's 30 polytechnics last year, figures published yesterday by the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics show. Some polytechnics are reaching the limits of their capacity in certain areas and are becoming alarmed, Mr Roger Blow, the committee's senior administrative assistant, said.

Last year there were 140,000 on full-time and sandwich courses, a rise of 6.6 per cent. The increase in students going to polytechnics is partly a result of the cut in university students.

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Many snaps are ruined by process firms, consumer magazine says

By Stephen Goodwin

Blurred views and chopped off heads which typically mar photographs of that unforgettable holiday may not, after all, be the fault of the camera or an unsteady hand.

A report in the consumer magazine *Which?* published today, says poor results with colour prints may be attributable to the film processing, and paying higher prices will not necessarily make any difference.

Which? sent 300 identically exposed Boots Colourprint and Kodacolor II films to 19 processing firms and assessed the returned prints for faults, sharpness, colour and cut-offs from the negative.

The magazine says: "Our tests results show what initially were identical scenes can lead to some startlingly different results."

Prices charged by the processing firms varied greatly, from 6p to 30p for a large print, and there was also "considerable variation" among the prints received.

"Poor results can be due to variations in colour balance - it is possible to eliminate the

yellowish tone of a face taken in ordinary indoor lighting, but most laboratories did not do it," *Which?* says.

Cut-offs can be particularly galling. That vital part of a scene can be removed by the high-speed printing machines set to ensure that black edges are not left round a print.

The commonest fault was white specks on prints, which could be caused by dust or dirt in the laboratory or splashes from chemicals.

The survey lists 19 firms trading under a variety of names, one as many as nine. Special offers, it says, are not always what they seem and the fastest processors tend to be expensive, to give poor results, or both.

One of the speediest, the London-based Fotofast, which operates an "in by 10, out by 5" service, is criticized for faults with both 110mm and 35mm films. Cut-offs, sharpness and colour are also below par for the 35mm film, which accounts for about 85 per cent of its business.

Mr Tim Auer, Fotofast's marketing controller, told *The Times* that quality control suffered as the firm tried to keep its promise on days when the film load was heavier than normal.

He said: "We are trying to cater for a certain section of the photo-taking public, commuters, who are willing to entertain perhaps a slight drop in quality in exchange for speed."

Which? praised the Memo group, which trades under names such as BonusPhoto, Bonusprint, Capitalfoto and Fast-a-Film. Memo group processing is done at Grunwick in north London, scene of a bitter dispute over union recognition in 1977.

Kodak and the Snap 'n' Save firm were the only ones to get "best" marks in the faults category for 110mm film.

Kodak's spokesman said: "It is up to the customers, if they are not happy, to go back to the lab and say so." *Which?* says free reprints are nearly always given without arguments.



The Prince and Princess of Wales listening to Jimmy Savile's speech yesterday.

Hospital patients get royal surprise

The Prince of Wales took a surprise yesterday for patients and staff at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire: his wife. He had been expected alone to open the hospital's new spinal injuries centre.

Flag-waving crowds, who had waited for hours in the bright sunshine, cheered when the royal party arrived.

The Prince explained: "The atmosphere and spirit here is quite extraordinary. I mentioned this to my wife and she thought what I had to say was interesting, so she said she would come along as well."

But Mr Jimmy Savile, who launched an appeal to raise £10m for the new unit, suspected an ulterior motive. "Only I know the real reason why the Princess is here, it's a complicated way to get a request played on Radio One", he joked.

His comment brought a giggle from the Princess, who looked cool in an ivory and grey silk two-piece with matching dove grey hat, bag, belt and shoes.

Mr Savile acted as host to the royal couple, who were accompanied by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services.

The unit has the most modern

facilities for disabled people, including Jacuzzi baths and a push-button miniature colour television set for each patient in the intensive care ward.

Mr Savile's campaign raised £10m for the unit in three years. Building began two years ago yesterday.

He described Stoke Mandeville as "a hospital of perfection, built by the laughter and good times of the British public, British industry and the British media".

The Prince agreed that it was a team effort. "What we see here is, more than anything, a tribute to a very large number of people", he said.

Retrial for Britons amid claims of torture

By Richard Dowden

Three Britons who were convicted of drug smuggling in Peru last December after claiming that they signed false confessions because of torture, are being retried because the public prosecutor has demanded harsher sentences.

Peter Duffy from Macclesfield was sentenced to eight years and Philip Thorne and Hugh Quigley, both from Bristol, were sentenced to five years each for trying to smuggle cocaine.

Mr Duffy and Mr Quigley said they were hooded, kicked, beaten and held under water by the police when first arrested in November, 1980.

It is understood that the Peruvian public prosecutor wanted a 25-year sentence for Mr Duffy and ordered the retrial because he felt that police evidence had not been presented well enough.

A British observer at the trial described it as a mixture of Lewis Carroll and Franz Kafka. "The judge laughed when Duffy complained about the torture", he said.

The three have been in prison for nearly three years. Mr Thorne is now passing blood in his urine and has a severe skin infection. Mr Quigley fell and broke his left hand in June. It took him 17 days to get an X-ray examination, and he was told that if he wanted plaster, he would have to pay for it.

The three used what little money they had hiring lawyers for the first trial, but they say the lawyers never came to the court and they had to rely on others who did not meet them before the hearings. It is understood that Mr Duffy is being helped by his company.

The Foreign Office in London says that the Peruvian Minister of Justice had "refuted all the allegations" at a meeting with the British Ambassador on February 19 last year.

Car registration change studied

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Alternatives to the August car registration system are being considered by Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Transport.

He is understood to be concerned that BL, which is entirely dependent on the output of British factories, should be handicapped by the government-imposed model-year change. The present system appears to favour the importers.

Among the alternatives is a change to June, which is favoured by many car dealers; October which is supported by BL; or the scrapping of the

present system, replacing it with the American and Swiss method of allocating licence plates to drivers instead of cars.

Supporters of the latter method argue that it removes the artificial distortion of the market resulting from the use of a letter identifying the year of manufacture.

Opponents insist, however, that it would result in lower sales over the year by removing any incentive to buy cars in a specific month.

Mr King's concern follows lobbying by BL executives, who

insist that the August bonanza enables Continental manufacturers to switch to the production of right-hand drive models for Britain during June and July.

These are months when they would normally be introducing short-time working before the August holidays.

BL would prefer October to give it two more months in which to build up stocks. It would also reduce the risk of short-time working at Longbridge and Cowley in September and October.

Receiving order on Sutcliffe

A receiving order was made at Bradford County Court yesterday against Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper. It was the first step towards making the killer of 13 women bankrupt.

The registrar, Mr David Garside, made the order after a hearing in private. It was requested by Mrs Irene MacDonald, whose daughter Jayne was murdered by Sutcliffe in 1977.

Mrs MacDonald, who was awarded £6,722 compensation, has not been paid by Sutcliffe. He also owes £19,000 to two women who survived his attacks. His only asset is a detached house in Garden Lane, Heaton, Bradford.

Sutcliffe, who is serving a life sentence, was not legally represented at the hearing but his wife Sonia attended.

Afterwards, Mrs MacDonald's solicitor, Mr William Tate, said the Official Receiver would deal with the estate. "We are now very optimistic that Mrs MacDonald will receive the money."

Rider charged

Harvey Smith, aged 44, the showjumper, of Craiglands Farm, Bingley, West Yorkshire, faced charges of drunken driving and failing to display matching headlamps at Selby Magistrates Court yesterday. The case was adjourned until September 14.

Argentine ban

Mr Alfred Lomas, Labour Member of the European Parliament for London North-east, has been refused a visa to visit Argentina with a European delegation, which is investigating the disappearance of political prisoners. No explanation was given.

Pill ban appeal

Mrs Victoria Gillick, of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, the mother of 10 children who lost her High Court battle to stop doctors prescribing the contraceptive pill to under-age girls, is to appeal against the ruling. She will again receive legal aid.

Drug man jailed

Ikhtlag Mubarak, aged 44, from Lahore, Pakistan, was jailed for ten years and recommended for deportation yesterday when he was found guilty at Aylesbury Crown Court of smuggling heroin with a street value of £650,000 into Britain.

M1 speed purge

Northamptonshire police have charged nearly 700 drivers in a two-month period for allegedly exceeding 80 miles an hour on the M1. The police action follows a sharp increase in road deaths in the county.

Wine for 25m

The number of wine drinkers in Britain is expected to exceed 25 million for the first time this year. They will consume 350 million litres, according to figures published yesterday by Cinzano UK.

Poor programmes 'bar to cable boom'

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

There are not enough good quality television programmes for British cable operators to attract subscribers, according to a five nation study on satellite and cable television programming published today.

The study conducted by CIT Research of London into consumer attitudes to cable in Britain, West Germany, Belgium, France and The Netherlands, says that if European programme makers produce material that subscribers will buy, then a new industry worth between \$4,000m and \$5,000m (£2,660m and £3,330m) a year could be created by 1990.

The amount that people will pay for cable television still appears to be critical. "This is limited, initially to an average of less than the equivalent of \$12 (£4) per household per month", the report says.

The most popular product which subscribers would pay for is feature films, followed by sport, documentaries, science, light, entertainment, drama, music and news, the survey found.

The report also concludes: "There is widespread interest in a specialized news channel (40 to 50 per cent of viewers would watch) but few viewers would pay for such a service." Rather, they would expect it to be part of a package which would include popular entertainment.

Programme sponsorship, particularly of news, will be needed because of high production costs; channel sharing will also be necessary to reduce costs.

Britain is potentially one of the biggest markets for cable television. The Government is committed to its expansion and 60 per cent of British homes have more than one television. The average British viewer watches 22.7 hours a week, compared to France (14.3), Belgium (13.1), West Germany (12.5) and The Netherlands (12).

The Government has invited applications for 12 pilot franchises for multi-channel cable television networks in Britain probably carrying between 20 and 30 channels. Applications must reach the Home Office by the end of this month. Franchises are to be awarded in November.

Video recorder use in Britain 1983	
Category of use	%
Recording while watching another channel	39
Recording while absent	30
Watching pre-recorded material (rented or bought)	22
Recording/watching at same time	9

Source: Communications and Information Technology (CIT) Research Ltd.

Dublin pilots held over moonlighting

Three Irish Air Corps pilots arrested at Dublin airport on Tuesday night face disciplinary charges and possible court martial for flying for a civilian airline without permission.

The were placed in "open service custody" - confined to barracks - after they landed at the airport while flying for an independent airline, Avair.

A fourth pilot, who had been working for Flightline, based at Prestwick, Scotland, reported to the police yesterday.

An Irish Army spokesman said yesterday that a court martial was likely, probably on charges of being absent without leave. The air corps is a branch of the army.

The pilots had requested to leave the air corps so that they could take up more lucrative employment with civil airlines, but their request was rejected at a Cabinet meeting last week.

EEC blamed in dearer cakes warning

By Patricia Clough
Biscuits, cakes and other flour-based foods will become dearer as a result of the "crazy" EEC cereal system, Mr John Bradbury, president of the Cake and Biscuit Alliance, has predicted.

Last year, Britain had a surplus of home-grown wheat and prices were down to the EEC intervention level. But more than two million tons were exported, leaving a shortage, and now Britain is having to import dearer wheat, he said.

Mr Bradbury blamed the EEC's "too generous" export refunds, which induced farmers to export too much too soon.

The alliance was making representations to the EEC Commission and the European Parliament.

The price of home-grown wheat has increased from about £125 to £140 a ton

Judge defers decision on glue sale charges

From Our Correspondent, Edinburgh

A judge has reserved his decision on whether two Glasgow shopkeepers should go on trial accused of endangering lives by supplying young people with solvents and glue-sniffing kits.

Lord Avonside said at the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday, after hearing two days of preliminary legal debate into the relevancy of the charge, that he would take time to consider this "serious and difficult" case and give his decision in writing.

Counsel for two accused brothers, Khalig Raja, aged 23, and Ahmed Raja, aged 28, maintained that the main charge disclosed no crime known to Scottish law. In Scotland there was no control over the supply of solvents and it was not contrary to the misuse of Drugs Act.

But Lord MacKay, Scotland's Lord Advocate, claimed the supply was for inhaling, which endangered health and life, and the brothers knew the solvents were for "sniffing".



SIGNS OF A SYMPATHETIC HEARING ARE EVERYWHERE.

Wherever you look in your high street, the 'ear' symbol will catch your eye. Wherever you see it, a special service is available, as part of The Sympathetic Hearing Scheme making life easier for anyone who is deaf or hard of hearing.

In shops, from C & A, Marks & Spencer, and Rumbelows to corner shops, it means that staff are keen and able to help deaf and hard-of-hearing customers, who show the Sympathetic Hearing Scheme card.

The same goes for building societies - like the Abbey National, the Halifax and Nationwide.

In theatres, cinemas and airport departure lounges the 'ear' indicates a 'looped' area where hearing-aid wearers can hear.

And it shows that telephone boxes can also be used by people with hearing aids.

Wherever you see the 'ear' you know deaf and hard-of-hearing people are getting the sympathetic hearing they deserve.

If you work with the public, why not join The Sympathetic Hearing Scheme? Send the coupon, and we'll send you a vinyl window sticker

showing the 'ear' and copies of a short leaflet telling you how to help.

If you have problems hearing, we'll send you a plastic 'credit' card which you can discreetly show to ask for help, and get better service.

All the signs are that The Sympathetic Hearing Scheme is growing.

TO:
The Coordinator, The Sympathetic Hearing Scheme,
FREEPOST, London W3 7BR
(NO STAMP NEEDED)
Please Tick
☐ Please send me _____ vinyl window stickers (1 and _____ leaflets.
☐ Please send me a plastic card.

NAME _____
COMPANY _____
(stickers only)
ADDRESS _____

Please allow 28 days for delivery

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The Sympathetic Hearing Scheme

7/11 Armstrong Road, London W3 7JL
Jointly organised by: BAHOH: The British Association of the Hard of Hearing
BDA: The British Deaf Association, NDGS: The National Deaf Children's Society
RNID: The Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

US to step up food aid to Guatemala and El Salvador

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Guatemala and El Salvador, two of the United States' principal allies in Central America, are to receive extra food aid in a gesture designed to draw attention from deepening US military involvement in the region.

Mr John Block, US Agriculture Secretary, has been dispatched to the region on direct instructions from the White House in order to focus attention on the economic aspects of American policy in Central America.

Mr Block is currently visiting Guatemala, which is to get \$50m (£35m) in food credit guarantees for the fiscal year beginning on October 1. He is also discussing prospect for modernizing food production in Guatemala and El Salvador.

El Salvador, in particular, has suffered severe disruption in its backward agricultural industry because of the civil war. Mr Block arrives there on Saturday and is expected to announce an extra \$35m in direct food aid for the year beginning on October 1.

The Reagan Administration is clearly trying to redirect the public's perception of its Central America policy. The President and Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, briefed Congressional leaders in con-

ditional discussions on Tuesday and ensured that all their words of optimism and calm were later relayed to the press through official information sources.

Mr Shultz was quoted as telling the Congressmen that "things are moving in a reasonably positive way." He has played hardly any public role in the Central America issue in recent weeks; it is clear that the principal players now are the President himself, Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, United States representative at the United Nations, and Mr William Clark, the National Security Adviser.

The Administration's public handling of the Central America issue has, it is widely agreed, been appalling and President Reagan's televised defence of his strategy merely added to national concern about military confrontation.

Even so, there is no intention of scaling down the military exercises now getting under way in and around Honduras. Indeed, it is likely that the number of military personnel who will be on the ground in Honduras later this year will total 5,000, compared with the original plan to send 4,000 men.

Warship questions Soviet vessel

Washington (Reuters) - A United States destroyer on exercises off Central America questioned the captain of a Soviet ship which President Reagan claimed was carrying arms to Nicaragua. Defence officials said here yesterday.

The Soviet cargo ship Aleksandr Ulyanov was not stopped or boarded and no shots were fired in the incident last weekend.

The officials said the guided missile destroyer Lynde McCormick met the Soviet ship which was in international waters en route to the Nicaraguan port of Corinto. It asked the captain of the Ulyanov by radio to provide its nationality and destination. Details were still sketchy, but the destroyer may also have asked the Ulyanov to identify its cargo.

The statements came after reports from the Nicaraguan capital, quoting crew members of the Soviet ship saying it was interrogated by a US warship, identified as the Lynde McCormick.

President Reagan told a news conference last week that the Ulyanov was carrying military helicopters and other military equipment to Nicaragua.

Defence officials said the Ulyanov responded to the McCormick's queries and continued on its course.

The Lynde McCormick is one of an eight-ship battle group now on exercises in the Pacific off Central America.

A Nicaraguan port official said earlier this week that the Ulyanov was carrying medicine, tractors, construction equipment and consumer goods.

In Managua, ... members of Ulyanov confirmed the incident to reporters invited on board the ship. They said that the Ulyanov had been stopped 55 miles off the Nicaraguan coast by US destroyers.

● Moscow: Tass said that the US was ignoring international sea law off central America (AP reports).

It claimed that the United States planned to overthrow the Nicaraguan government by various means, including a blockade of the country. "The establishment of a blockade of Nicaragua... could not be viewed otherwise than an act of war," Tass said. "It is a question of not only an extremely dangerous aggressive action against Nicaragua... but also of a brazen challenge to the entire world community."

● WASHINGTON: Two Navy F14 jet fighters from the Eisenhower had a head-on encounter with two Libyan MiG23s on Monday over the Gulf of Sirte, a Pentagon spokesman here said (Mohsin Ali writes).

The Libyan jets turned to avoid a collision, then descended and headed for home. No weapons were fired during the incident.



Mr Chad

Washington sends Sri Lanka flour to relieve shortages

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

A 30,000 tonnes load of wheat flour is being shipped to Sri Lanka by the United States in response to a request for food.

The gift of flour represents about one-and-a-half months' supply according to the newly-appointed Commissioner General for Essential Services, Mr Bradman Weerakoon.

Mr Weerakoon said food stocks were being requisitioned from stores which had not reopened after the troubles. "Requisition means that we take over the stocks on behalf of the person who is not available," he said, "and we pay him back when we find him."

He said that supplies of basic foodstuffs such as rice, dal and sugar were sufficient, though supplies of wheat flour and some imported foods were giving concern.

The Minister of State, Mr

Ananda Tissa De Alwis, said that life in Sri Lanka has returned to normal. "Better than normal in some cases," he said, pointing out that the number of instances of arson and assault were much less than on a normal day.

Offers of help from countries other than the United States have also been received, the minister said, and they were being considered. A ship had been sent from India to assist in the transfer of refugees.

The ship also contained an elephant, a gift from the Indian Government intended for the famous Temple of the Tooth, in Kandy. It was regarded as a highly friendly act, as the election symbol of President J. R. Jayawardene's United National Party is an elephant.

More than 2,500 refugees have now embarked for the north of the island on three

cargo ships. According to the minister of state, 30 per cent of refugees wish to be taken north. The figures for the total numbers of refugees were given as 64,000 in 16 camps in Colombo, and 15,000 in 11 camps outside the capital.

An airlift of refugees to the eastern province town of Batticaloa, which is also strongly Tamil, is being organized. Passengers are also being taken across country by train and lorry.

The Government is at pains to point out that there are no worries over security in connection with the proposed meeting of Parliament today. "The security forces have the city under tight control," the official spokesman, Mr Douglas Lyanage, said. "We are confident that there will be no violence."

Cease fire holds between rival PLO factions

From Kate Dourian, Beirut

An undeclared ceasefire between rival Palestinian factions in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa valley appeared to be holding yesterday, ending 12 days of fighting. The only incident reported yesterday was a brief exchange of artillery fire between rebel Palestinian guerrillas of the Fatah group and a Lebanese Army unit near Baalbek. One Lebanese policeman was killed when a shell, presumably fired by the Fatah rebels, landed on a police station.

A Lebanese Army spokesman in Baalbek said that the Shaikh Abdullah barracks came under fire from supporters of Colonel Abu Mousa, the rebel leader, on Tuesday evening and that army artillery positions had responded, halting a guerrilla advance on a police station.

This was the first reported clash between the Palestinian guerrillas and the Lebanese Army. The fighting was re-

ported to have died down after Lebanese officers established contact with the Syrian Army.

Although the area is controlled by Syrian forces, the Lebanese Army has been allowed to retain a nominal presence but Lebanese soldiers are usually confined to barracks.

Shia Muslim "Islamic Amal" organization in Baalbek issued an ultimatum to the Palestinian fighters to leave the city and close their offices there.

There was heavy fighting between supporters and opponents of the Palestine Liberation Organization, on Tuesday in the Bekaa valley. There was speculation that the rebels had provoked the fighting in order to strengthen their bargaining position on the eve of a meeting of the Palestine Central Council, which was scheduled to be held yesterday in Tunis, at the PLO's provisional headquarters.

US thwarts Arabs in UN vote

From Zoriana Pysarski, New York

The United States has again risen to Israel's defence in the United Nations Security Council with a veto on Tuesday that blocked the adoption of an Arab-drafted resolution seeking to confirm the illegality of the Israeli Government's settlements policy on the West Bank.

The vote was the culmination of a rancorous and ill-tempered four-day debate convened at the request of Arab nations.

After the vote the American representative, Mr. Charles Lichtenstein, attempted to impress upon the Council that the veto should not be misconstrued as approval of the Israeli settlements policy. The United States, however, thought impractical the call for the dismantling of existing settlements.

Voting in favour of the draft resolution were: Britain, China, France, Guyana, Jordan, Malta, The Netherlands, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Poland, Soviet Union, Togo, Zimbabwe. Voting against: United States. Abstaining: Zaïre.

Shot envoy is slowly recovering

Exactly 14 months after the gun attack which left him partially paralysed and suffering from serious head wounds, Mr Shlomo Argov, the former Israeli Ambassador to London (below), continues to make slow progress towards recovery in Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital. (Christopher Walker writes).

A recent report on his condition said that he was able to go home at weekends and keep up with current events by watching television, although he is understood to be still some way from regaining his full intellectual capabilities. Despite his injuries, Mr Argov is able to talk. His recent controversial attack on the war in Lebanon - a conflict prompted by his own attempted assassination - was dictated verbally to a friend from his bedside.

Photograph of new ambassador, page 10

flately rejected a demand presented by Mr McFarlane on behalf of President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon, seeking a written commitment that the Israeli redeployment of troops was part of a total pull-back from his country.

On another point of disagreement, Mr Shamir was informed by the American envoy that the Lebanese Government was not prepared at present to ratify formally the agreement with Israel signed on May 17.



Libya threatens to attack aircraft carrier

Beirut (Reuters) - Libya yesterday called in African ambassadors to protest about the presence of the United States Sixth Fleet near its coast and said it would attack the aircraft carrier Eisenhower if it entered the Gulf of Sirte.

According to Libya's official news agency Jana, it denied accusations by the Government in Nijamena that its Air Force was bombing the Chad town of Faya-Largeau.

In a dispatch monitored here, the agency said Libya's Foreign Liaison Secretary (foreign minister), Mr Abdel-Ali Obeidi, informed the ambassadors of the Sixth Fleet's presence near Libya and "the open provocations they pose against the Libyan Arab people".

Mr Obeidi said Libya had called on the Organization of

African Unity (OAU) to stop "flagrant US and French intervention" in Chad. He said Libya was against internationalizing the conflict and in favour of "national reconciliation to be reached between the disputing Chadian factions".

The United States considers the gulf as international water and regularly sends naval patrols there.

● WASHINGTON: Two Navy F14 jet fighters from the Eisenhower had a head-on encounter with two Libyan MiG23s on Monday over the Gulf of Sirte, a Pentagon spokesman here said (Mohsin Ali writes).

The Libyan jets turned to avoid a collision, then descended and headed for home. No weapons were fired during the incident.

Mondale's million dollar grin

From Our Own Correspondent Washington

Politics in America is an expensive business, and usually only the best moneybags succeed. Mr Walter Mondale, therefore, has much to smile about.

In six months he has raised \$5.1m (£3.4m) from the unions, from all manner of interested parties hoping one day to call in the debt and from families up and down the country who can claim a tax deduction for donations of up to \$100 a year.

That is almost exactly double the amount raised by the other leading contender for the Democratic presidential nomination next summer, Mr John Glenn, the former astronaut.

Their lesser-known rivals are finding the system a huge financial burden. Mr Alan Cranston has borrowed \$462,000 in the last three months and on July 30 his campaign fund was \$300,000 in debt. He has raised a trifling £1.1m in contributions.

Mr Gary Hart is accumulating so much debt that questions are being asked about the viability of his campaign. He is negotiating for another \$350,000 loan to finance a new fund-raising drive. He raised little more than \$800,000 in the first half of the year. Such traditional political fare as direct mail appeals and benefit concerts are now on the cards.

Mr Reuben Askew is doing much better. The latest returns to the Federal Election Commission show his campaign fund to contain \$433,000 with debts of little more than \$12,000.

MPs protest at motion to unseat Nkomo

From Stephen Taylor Harare

Debate on a Zimbabwe government motion to have Mr Joshua Nkomo's parliamentary seat declared vacant was adjourned yesterday amid accusations by his Patriotic Front party that the Government was avoiding a vote because it had insufficient MPs present to carry the motion.

The motion, to deprive the exiled Patriotic Front leader of his seat on the ground that he has been absent for 21 consecutive days of Parliament, required the approval of more than 50 MPs of the 100-seat House of Assembly. During the debate there were no more than 40 MPs on the government benches.



Thousands flee hill fires

Overcome by smoke: A fireman rescues a companion, one of eight men hurt as fires yesterday destroyed thousands of acres of forests in southern France.

Fires fanned by violent winds forced some 10,000 holidaymakers to evacuate camp sites in the Provence hills north of the Riviera. (Reuters reports). The fires began between the villages of Puget-sur-Argens and Bagnols-en-Forêt and spread rapidly through pine forests towards the Gulf of St Tropez.

As winds up to 50 mph whipped up the flames, three separate fires broke out near Fréjus and a fourth blaze was centred on Coray-Le-Rouet in the west of the region.

Israeli test for McFarlane's mission

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The diplomatic difficulties facing Mr Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's new Middle East envoy, on his first visit to the region were demonstrated here yesterday during his opening talks with senior Israeli ministers. He will meet Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, this morning.

The importance of the latest US mission to secure the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, was also emphasized by events away from the

negotiating table. One of these was the funeral of a young Israeli Army captain, who had died from wounds received on Tuesday when the Syrians opened fire on an Israeli position in eastern Lebanon.

During the day, a further six Israeli soldiers were jailed for refusing to serve in Lebanon, one for the fourth time since the war began in June, 1982, and another for the second time. During the talks, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister,

flatly rejected a demand presented by Mr McFarlane on behalf of President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon, seeking a written commitment that the Israeli redeployment of troops was part of a total pull-back from his country.

35 killed in armed attack on bus

Nairobi - Thirty-five passengers were shot dead and at least as many were injured when a crowded bus was attacked by armed men in the Luwero area, 60 miles north of Kampala (Charles Harrison writes).

A nurse who survived said the bus was forced to stop when its tyres were shot up, and passengers were robbed before the attackers opened fire indiscriminately.

Survivors said some of the attackers wore army uniforms while others were in civilian clothes. The area was until recently controlled by guerrillas of the National Resistance Army. Another bus escaped from an ambush with minor damage shortly before.

Reporter sent back to jail

Hamburg (AFP) - Gerd Heide-mann, the Stern reporter implicated in the Hitler diary hoax was back in jail again yesterday 24 hours after winning his release.

Prosecutors argued that he might try to flee the country or tamper with evidence, court officials said, and the court agreed.

Third heart

Cape Town (AFP) - An unnamed 18-year-old youth who underwent a "piggy-back" heart operation two years ago has been given a third heart in the first operation of its kind in the world. He is the first person to live with two donor hearts.

Valdes decision

Santiago (Reuters) - Chile's military rulers said they would not pursue legal action against Señor Gabriel Valdes, the former Foreign Minister, jailed last month on charges of helping to publicize a day of anti-government protest.

Murder charge

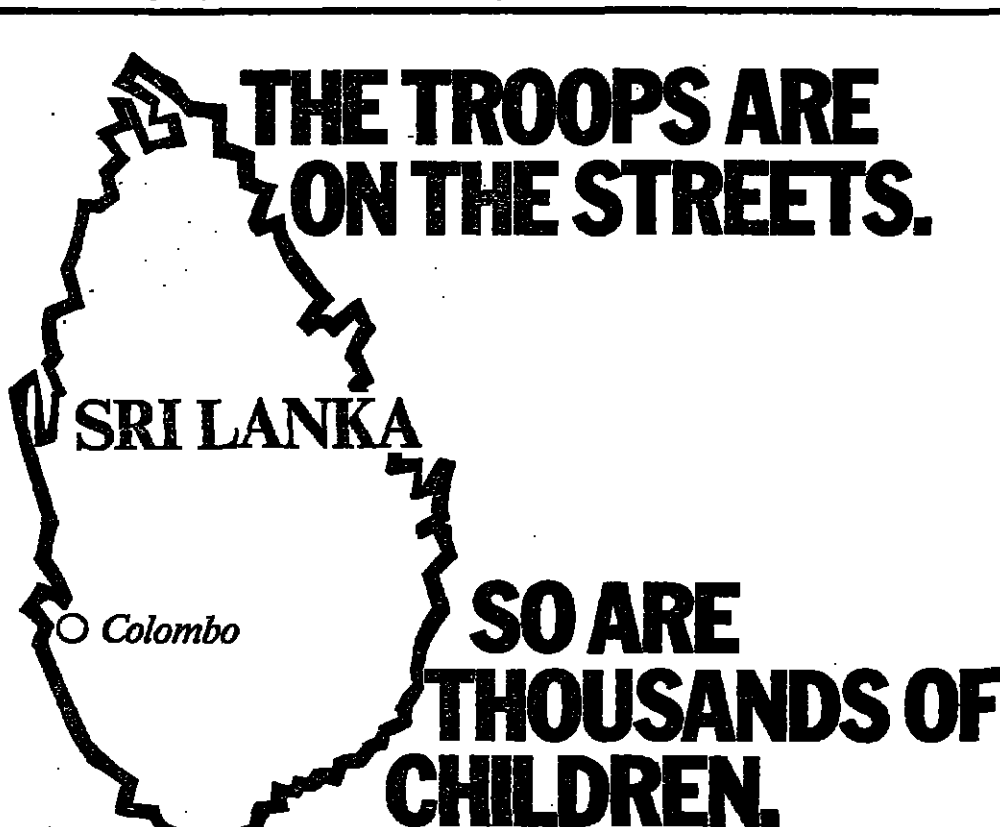
Nairobi - Four Kenyans have appeared in court at Kiambu, near here, charged with murdering Mr Edward John Edward Smith, from Hornchurch, Essex, when a tourist minibus was attacked by an armed gang 30 miles from Nairobi in June. All four were remanded in custody. If convicted, they face mandatory death sentences.

King honoured

Washington (Reuters) - Martin Luther King, the civil rights leader, was honoured by the House of Representatives when it approved by 338 to 90 a Bill to establish a public holiday in his memory on the third Monday each January. The White House is opposed because it would cost the Government \$210m (£140m) in lost working days.

Snakepit record

Bonn (AFP) - Jürgen Hergert, aged 41, who owns a snake farm, spent three months in a cage with assorted Cobras, Rattlesnakes, African Mambas, Asps and Vipers, emerging for only an hour a day to set a new world record.



More than 20,000 children are now homeless in Sri Lanka of persecution. They need water. They need medicine. Our workers on the scene are helping in the makeshift refugees.

In one refuge up to 6,000 people rely on two water taps. There is no sanitation. So the risk of disease is high. To help them we need your help.

Please send a donation to: The Save the Children Fund, Dept. 204, 17 Grove Lane, Camberwell, London SE5 8RD or phone 01-701 0984 quoting your Access/Barclaycard account No.

Please use this donation £ towards your Sri Lanka appeal. Or debit my Access/Barclaycard account. No. To save postage, please tick the box only if you need a receipt ☐

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Save the Children

هكذا من الأصل

Uruguay bans all political activities and censors press

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

The Uruguayan military Government has banned all political activity and established harsh censorship of the press. The announcement was made by Interior Minister, on Tuesday night after a series of meetings of senior military officers over five days.

General Linarez Brum said that the Government remained committed to calling general elections in November 1984, and was prepared to continue talks with the three permitted political parties on the nature of a new constitution. But it was made clear that any talks would be private and the Government would no longer tolerate any public campaigning.

At the same time he announced the introduction of Institutional Act Number 14, which allows the regime to ban all political activity for up to two years, as well as to establish individual bans on politicians "who by their conduct, actions, or omissions disturb the peace and public order".

Sources in Montevideo said that the new hard line was paradoxically a victory for the so-called "moderate" wing of the armed forces.

General Gregorio Alvarez, the President, and other officers, had wanted to go much further, cancelling the elections and imposing an "official"

political party. In contrast, General Linarez Brum and General Boscini, Hontou, the Army commander, imposed their policy of tightening controls on the parties, while maintaining the promised elections.

Relations between the permitted Opposition parties and the Government have been deteriorating rapidly since July 5, when negotiations on constitutional amendments sought by the armed forces reached deadlock. The politicians reject what they regard as "anti-democratic" constitutional changes.

After the break in the constitutional dialogue, the Government announced it would impose a new constitution without consultation.

The hardening military line is in part a response to the political parties' increasing willingness to denounce human rights violations. Last week, for the first time in many years, two opposition weeklies, *Opinion* and *Corre de Los Yernes*, which reflect the thinking of sectors of the Colorado Party, published information on the torture of political dissidents.

The information was provided by the Uruguayan branch of the Peace and Justice Service, led in Latin America by Señor Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, the Argentine Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Reagan task force to report on US hunger

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan has ordered a task force on hunger to be set up and given 90 days to produce a "no-holds-barred" report on the causes of hunger in the United States.

The President said in a statement on Tuesday: "I am deeply concerned about the extent to which we have a problem that should not exist in this great and wealthy country."

He added that America was "literally the breadbasket of the world. Yet, I have seen reports in the press in past weeks of Americans going hungry."

Mr Reagan observed that he was perplexed by reports of widespread hunger because of the large amount of money the Government spent on food programmes.

"If the food assistance programmes are being mismanaged, I want to know that. If certain aspects of our food assistance programmes require more funding, I want to know that too," he said.

One White House aide was reported to have said privately that the President's announcement was part of a campaign to counteract allegations that his policies were unfair to the poor.

President Reagan has been sharply criticized for his efforts to limit eligibility for food stamps. His 1984 fiscal year budget proposal calls for a cut in federal spending on food and nutrition programmes.



Smaller little children: A child on holiday in Rome gets a kiss from the Pope after squeezing through the crowd in St Peter's Square yesterday.

Frontline ban on reporters modified

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

The southern African "frontline" states are to draw up a list of South African-based foreign correspondents they like and do not like, according to a senior Zimbabwean official.

Those whose reporting has not been appreciated in the past will be barred, but others who have caused no offence will be treated as exceptions and allowed to cover news events in these countries.

Mr Justin Nyoka, director of information in Zimbabwe, has made this clear to a delegation representing the Foreign Correspondents' Association of Southern Africa (FCA) which returned to Johannesburg yesterday from Harare.

The FCA, whose members represent 53 news organizations covering South Africa as well as the frontline states - Angola, Mozambique, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Tanzania - sent delegates to Harare where the ban was announced to seek official clarification.

Frontline information ministers and officials had accused the South African-based correspondents of giving credibility in reports to the official South African view of "the reality in our countries".

It is clear that Zimbabwe, which has already expelled a South African-based BBC Television news team, had been the instigator of the action.

Leading article, page 9

Prime Minister gives evidence

Hawke says envoy was a KGB agent

From Tony Dabondin, Melbourne

Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, told the Hope Royal Commission yesterday that the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO) had told him that Mr Valery Ivanov, the expelled Soviet diplomat, was using a classic KGB ploy to establish Mr David Combe, a former federal secretary of the Labour Party and a Canberra lobbyist, as an agent.

Mr Hawke, the first Australian Prime Minister to appear before a Royal Commission, said that he had concluded from an ASIO briefing that Australian security was facing a serious risk.

He also told the Commission that he had personally telephoned Mr Richard Farmer and Mr Bill Butler, two Canberra businessmen, and advised them not to enter into a business relationship with Mr Combe, although he did not tell them why.

Mr Hawke, who spent the entire day in the witness box, said that if the relationship between Mr Combe and Mr Ivanov had developed further, Mr Combe would have been so compromised that his position "would have been irretrievable".

The Hope Commission was set up after the expulsion of Mr Ivanov on April 22 to inquire into Australia's security services and was later widened to take in the relationship between Mr Ivanov and Mr Combe.



Mr Hawke: The first Australian Prime Minister to face a royal commission.

Mr Hawke told the commission that there was no doubt on ASIO's behalf that Mr Ivanov was a KGB agent and "what they thought has proved positive".

He added that Mr Harvey Barnett, the head of ASIO had called him one day in April and asked to discuss the security matter involving Mr Ivanov.

"He indicated that there was a severe problem with national security which involved Mr Ivanov, the First Secretary at the Soviet Embassy."

Mr Barnett had also told him that ASIO was concerned that Mr Ivanov had cultivated contacts at both the Indonesian and the Mauritian embassies in Canberra.

The Prime Minister will resume giving evidence today, but in camera.

Malaysia restricts powers of King

From M G G Pillai, Kuala Lumpur

The Malaysian Government is pushing through the current session of Parliament important constitutional amendments that restrict the powers of the King and abolish appeals to the Privy Council. They also raise the number of parliamentary seats by 22 to 176, and set out how and when a convicted Member of Parliament can lose his seat.

With the Government controlling 136 of the present House of 154, the amendments will easily be passed. But they could fuel a growing conflict between the nine rulers and the federal authorities. One amendment takes away the King's persuasive power to delay the signing of Bills into law, and another allows the Prime Minister to declare a state of emergency without reference to the King.

One peculiarity in the Malaysian democratic system is that the nine rulers have given themselves more powers than provided for under the constitution. Neither the states nor the central Government were willing to confront the rulers directly over this, and it led to direct conflicts between the rulers and their chief ministers and, indirectly, with the central Government.

In the past, the King of the day has also delayed legis-

lation, in one case for five years, and the more appears to have come about after specific problems in the states involving two sultans. The Sultans of Pahang and Perak withheld their assent for more than 12 months, even on money Bills, in an attempt to remove their Chief Ministers.

The amendments do not affect the rulers who derive their powers from state constitutions. But if the past is any guide, similar amendments would be tabled later in the respective state assemblies. Informed sources said the amendments were aimed at preserving the institution of monarchy.

The Malaysian constitution is more detailed than many others and consequential amendments were often necessary before laws could be introduced or streamlined. Since independence in 1957, there have been more than 1,000 amendments.

The abolition of Privy Council appeals refers to civil cases only, since criminal appeals to that body in London were abolished nine years ago. A consequential law gives the Attorney-General considerable powers to regulate unilaterally the legal profession, which until now he shared with the Bar Council.

Champagne region escapes

French wines weather damaging hailstorms

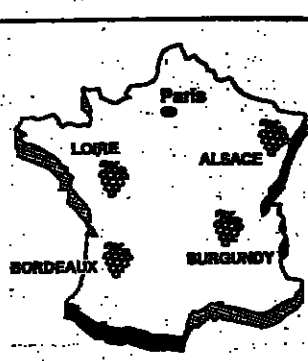
In the first of four articles on how the unusual weather is affecting prospects for Europe's wine harvest, ROGER BEARD-WOOD reports from Paris on this year's French wines.

French viticulteurs are expecting a bountiful year in spite of hailstorms a fortnight ago which badly damaged some vineyards in the Burgundy, Bordeaux, Loire and Alsace regions. In other parts of France, the harvest has been damaged little and the Champagne region has escaped entirely. Even in the areas hit by hail, producers say, rumour has greatly exaggerated the damage. Since the hailstorms, the weather has been kind to the vines mostly warm and sunny, broken by showers. But with the vintage till some weeks away, the worry is that the weather will break at the last moment. A sampling of the regions:

Burgundy: Hail hit many of the most famous of the *grands crus*, Vosne-Romanée, Romanée-Conti, Musigny, Romanée and Echevans-Musigny. But the damage was limited to very small parcels of land generally affecting between 50 and 70 per cent of the grapes, though in a few places 90 to 95 per cent. "But that is not as tragic as one might think," says M Jean-Michel Dubois, of the Institut National des Appellations d'Origine pour les Vins et Eaux de Vie (INAO). "Prices are very elastic and wines are often bought for the sheer snobbery," he says. For the *grands crus*, prices average 250 francs (£20) a bottle. If production falls by half - as forecast at present - prices could double.

But since most of these famous wines are exported to the United States, the rise of the dollar against the franc will cushion the blow for American winebibbers.

Bordeaux: Between 2,000 and 2,500 hectares have been hit by hail, out of a total of 75,000 hectares. In some vineyards half



the crop has been destroyed; in others, about a tenth. "Of course", a spokesman for the Bordeaux wine producers committee said, "it was a tragedy for the producer whose wine is not at the top of the list and cannot raise his price to compensate for a smaller output. But in the whole picture of Bordeaux wines, the damage is just a drop in the ocean." Last year, Bordeaux produced a record 4.3 million hectolitres.

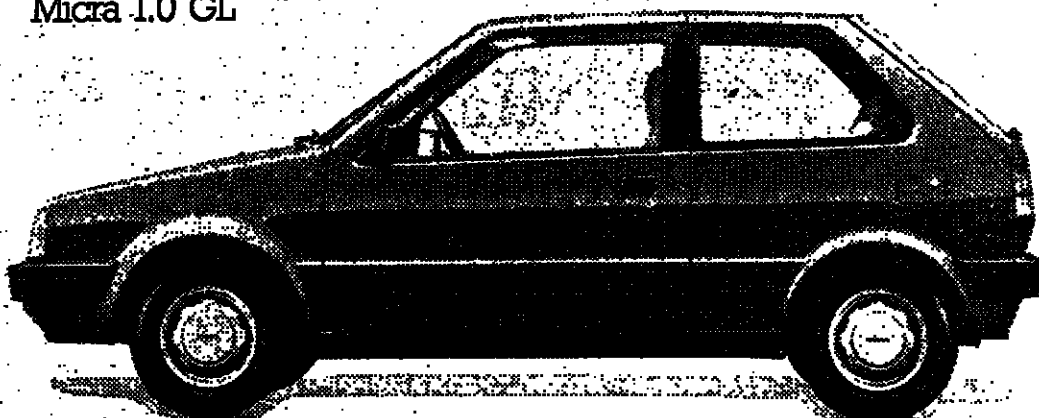
Loire: Only the Muscadet was damaged by hail - and then only 300 hectares out of 10,000. The proportion of grapes destroyed ranged from 10 to 36 per cent. The INAO said total production in the Loire should be only just below last year's record of 2.4 million hectolitres.

Alsace: About 1,000 hectares out of the total of between 10,000 and 12,000 hectares in the lower part of Colmar were stripped by hail, which destroyed up to half the crop. Alsace as a whole expects a very good year, with output probably above normal.

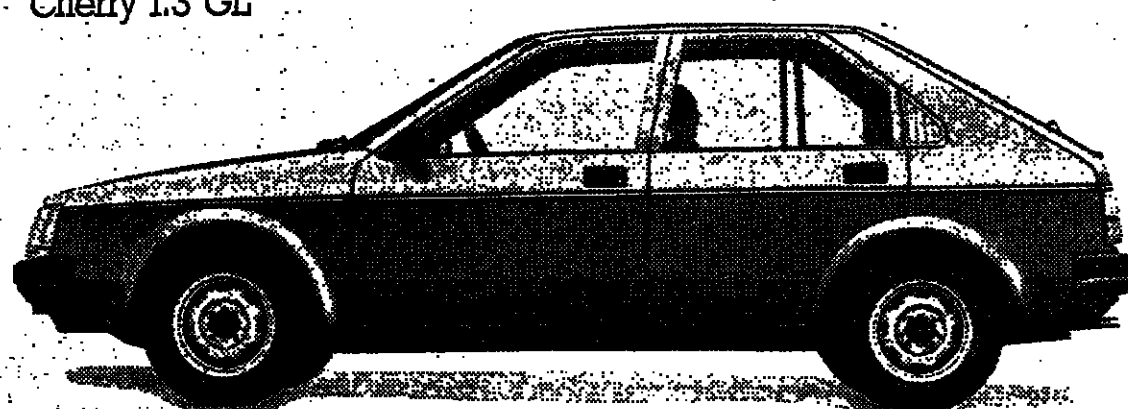
Last year, France produced 19 million hectolitres of wines classified as Appellation D'Origine Contrôlée. Some is still unsold. This year, production is estimated by the INAO at 16.8 million hectolitres. That figure could rise if the good weather continues and repairs some of the damage in vineyards struck by hail. Tomorrow: Italy

NISSAN- THE WORD FOR QUALITY.

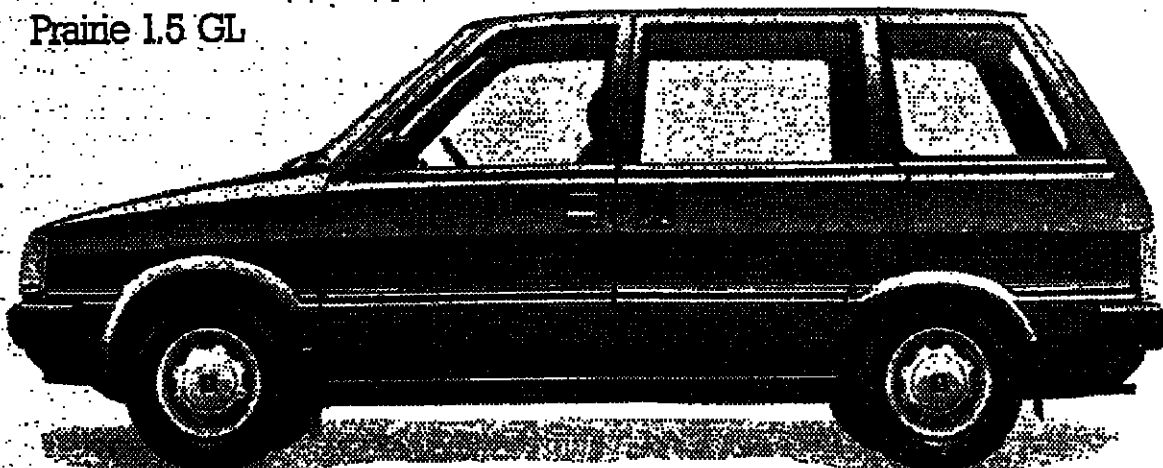
Micra 1.0 GL



Cherry 1.3 GL



Prairie 1.5 GL



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SPECTRUM

Superstar of India

An interviewer recently asked Mother Teresa if she would have taken Galileo's side or the Church's in that momentous medieval astronomical controversy had she been around at the time? The possible claimant for eventual canonization smiled and, without batting an eyelid, said: "The Church."

Some of her views, or for that matter her organization's, would certainly make democrats squirm. But she is also among the last of the great missionary superstars. As Father S. M. Dias, deputy secretary general of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, pointed out: "The focus is no longer on individuals. In fact we actively discourage it and emphasize teamwork. Now people are sent for a few years, do excellent work, and are replaced by others."

Mother Teresa's case is different. She was the founder of a successful movement, the spotlight was focused on her, and she became a phenomenon. But now all the work is being done by subordinate sisters of the Missionaries of Charity. She is travelling so much of the time.

Mother Teresa is undoubtedly a phenomenon. The organization she started on her own in a Calcutta slum, despite considerable hostility from the local Roman Catholic Church, has, 35 years later, blossomed into a "missionary multinational", operating in 52 countries. Today, it has 2,000 Sisters and 400 Brothers in 227 bases, struggling in the slums of 160 cities around the world.

The Missionaries of Charity run 140 slum schools and feed nearly 50,000 people daily at 304 centres; 70 homes look after 4,000 children, arranging for 1,000 adoptions each year; 81 homes for dying destitutes admitted 13,000 people last year; 12,000 poor women were taught to earn their living; and an astronomical 6,000,000 sick people were treated by 670 mobile clinics.

If there is any single reason for this enviable growth, it is undoubtedly the shining example Mother Teresa and her close associates have set day after day for decades in Calcutta's worst slums. Mother Teresa is neither particularly educated nor intelligent, and some of her statements make one wince. But her faith, single-mindedness, grit and stamina have moved mountains.

The other factor could be the Order's vow of poverty. Mother Teresa sleeps on the floor of her tiny room surrounded by files and religious books, her only reading material. Overheads at all the institutions do not exceed 2 per cent of total expenditure. Each sister has two sets of clothes, and the food per head works out at roughly £4 a month - just enough to keep them going 14 hours a day. With that kind of example, few people remain unimpressed.

On the other hand, the organization can hardly be called democratic. Under



The Times profile: Mother Teresa of Calcutta

the order's vow of obedience, no member can venture out without the Sister Superior's approval, receive private mail, entertain private guests, watch films, read books other than related work, or call each other by a pet name lest that reduce affection for Jesus. When anyone leaves the premises, arrival and departure times are meticulously noted. No personal time is permitted. Failure to abide by these regulations can lead to expulsion.

But Mother Teresa's dedication moves both the powerful and the poor to tears. India's late premier Jawaharlal Nehru, inaugurating her first children's home in Delhi back in 1961, said in a choked voice: "Believe me, Mother, we need you just as the poor do." American Senator Edward Kennedy, who saw her work in Calcutta during the 1971 Bangladesh war, wept in public. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, presenting her with the Nehru Award for International Understanding in November, 1972, blinked back tears during a speech in which she said Mother Teresa had "touched the chords of our heart... In honouring Mother Teresa we are honouring the spirit of mercy". Even street toughs, who initially threw stones and wolf whistles, later returned to help.

Pope John Paul II has recently described the Missionaries of Charity

as the most precious institution the Roman Catholic Church has espoused in recent times. Today Mother Teresa is feted by rulers and heads of state whom she regularly meets in her never-ending travels by complimentary air ticket. She has received 43 national and international awards, including the Nobel Prize for Peace.

In Calcutta, she is an institution. Her pictures compete with Hindu gods on calendars.

Ministers, captains of industry and other prominent people wait patiently for hours at Mother House, her international headquarters, to see her. Overwhelmingly Hindu, they come to offer any support to what is very clearly a Christian movement. As a result, 30 million dollars worth of aid is distributed through her organization each year.

Mother Teresa is explicit about her religion. "I can't bear the pain when people call me a social worker", she said. "My life is devoted to Christ; it is for him that I breathe and see. Had I been a social worker I'd have left it long ago." Many years ago she told Malcolm Muggeridge: "All the time we are touching Christ's body in the poor. In the poor it is the hungry Christ that we are feeding, it is the naked Christ that we are clothing, it is the homeless Christ that we are giving shelter. He

said 'I thirst'. In the poor we are quenching his thirst."

The Albanian shopkeeper's daughter from Southern Yugoslavia has come a long and difficult way, and it shows on her gnarled hands, furrowed face and stooped back. Born Agnes Gonxha Bejaxhiu in 1910, her father Nicholas wanted her to marry and settle down. But she had a club foot, and by the age of 12 was very religious.

At 18, with her parents' permission, she became a Loreto nun in Ireland. A year later, in late 1929, she was sent to teach at the order's elitist Loreto School in Calcutta. By the time the Second World War started, sister Agnes as she was known had become mistress of its Bengali section.

Though it seems hard to believe, Calcutta 50 years ago was a beautiful city of palaces. But the man-made Bengal famine of the 1940s sounded its death knell. Five million people died, and hundreds of thousands of starving villagers invaded the city.

Between classes Sister Agnes would carry clothes and medicine for the children and nurse the sick in the slum adjoining her school. September 10, 1946, was the day she says she heard God's call to leave the convent and help the poor. But it wasn't easy.

First there was a four-year fight with the local Roman Catholic establish-

ment. Archbishop Ferdinand Periers simply kept her proposal hanging fire. "I know this woman as a novice," he observed. "She could not light a candle in the chapel properly, and you expect her to start a congregation?" His real fear was the repercussions in the convent. Sister Agnes was promptly despatched to Asansol, a small town, to look after the kitchen at the small Loreto school there.

Fortunately for her, her mother superior in Dublin and the Pope with whom she was in direct contact agreed with her proposal. In 1948 she was released from the Loreto Order. An official circular at the time to all Loreto schools in Bengal barely hid the hostility. "Sister Agnes has left the convent. Do not speak about it. Do not criticize. Do not praise it. Pray."

Sister Agnes, who took the name Teresa after the 24-year-old French St Therese of the Child Jesus who died in 1897, shifted to a small room in the Little Sisters of the Poor's old age home, insolvent and alone.

It took six months after she left the Loreto convent to get her first helpers Subhashini Das, a former student who today is the second most important functionary in the Missionaries of Charity.

Mother Teresa has grown to love the city and its inhabitants. "Calcutta is not ugly at all," she said recently. "Calcutta has its warmth that you won't find in any other city, not only in India but everywhere. I have worked in Paris. I have worked in Los Angeles. But the poorest of the poor in Calcutta have more dignity than those in any of those affluent cities."

In October 1950 she finally received permission from Rome to start a new congregation. The constitution was consecrated by the Pope and the legend began.

Mother Teresa's day begins at 4am. Mass is at six. From 8am to 11am she visits her Calcutta homes in a station wagon - carrying gifts for inmates, talking to the sisters, and often helping with work. Then it is back to her headquarters where hordes of visitors await her. Lunch is spartan, and then the office work begins. After the 6pm Mass, she goes on another round of her homes, then has dinner. While the rest of the community sleeps, she catches up with correspondence. She has three hours sleep a night.

Many of Calcutta's destitute consider Mother Teresa to be God. But given the magnitude of the problem the impact of her work, though valuable, is limited. And she is aware of that. "My work is a drop in the ocean," she concedes. "But if that drop weren't there, the ocean would have one drop less."

Arum Chacko

● Mother Teresa has just resumed her travels after treatment at Rome's Salvatore Mundi Clinic for a heart condition following a fall.

moreover...
Miles Kington

Taken for a ride

Is that scruffy figure at the motorway entrance a fascinating companion for a ride or a threat to your life? Some points from your letters.

From the Bishop of Outer Manchester
Sir, I have only twice in my life picked up a hitch-hiker. The first time was as a theological student 35 years ago when I gave a lift to a young man on the A1. I was rather nervous as I had some valuable church silver on the back seat. On the other hand, I felt it was my duty as a Christian.

I am afraid to say that on a lonely stretch of road the youth pulled a knife on me and forced me to get out. He took my vintage Austin car, leaving only the silver which he thought was my luggage. Since then I have never picked up another hitch-hiker until last Thursday when I decided that my fear had gone on long enough and I gave a lift to a very respectable-looking middle-aged man travelling to Leeds.

Imagine my amazement when, during our conversation, he suddenly said: "That Austin of yours had a really clapped-out gearbox." It was the same man again! Before we got to Leeds he pulled a gun on me and took my new Audi. Luckily, he let me keep my suitcase, which contained several million pounds in aid for the Third World.

From Mr J. Plugs
Sir, One of the most notorious tricks of hitch-hikers is to put an attractive girl by the side of the road. When an unaware driver stops, four or five men jump out from behind the hedge and get in too. For this reason I never pick up girls. Last week stopped to give a lift to a scruffy bearded student and six ravishing blondes jumped out from the trees. I drove on immediately, conscious of my narrow escape.

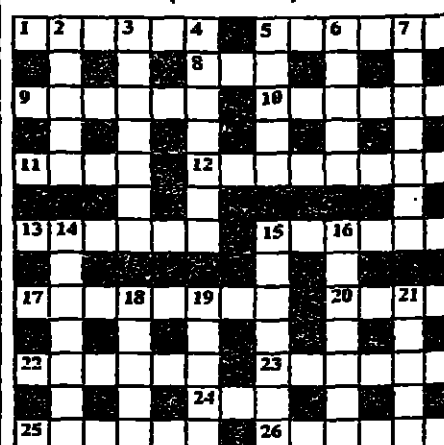
From Mr. Debby, Rhoda, Sharon etc
Sir, We are six ravishing blondes who do a lot of travelling up and down the A4 as we are a dance troupe. Will the motorist who gave a lift to our choreographer please return him at once. Thanks.

From Lord Sprocket
Sir, I am the last surviving remnant of a family which has lived in Rutland for 400 years. Driven by loneliness I gave a lift to a young hitchhiker last month and upon chatting to him discovered that he was the grandson of my great-uncle Harry who emigrated to Australia and was thus my sole heir! Who says that giving lifts to people cannot pay off? Later in the journey he pulled a gun on me and relieved me of my brand new BMW. If he should read this letter, I would like him to know that I have disinherited him.

From J. Wentworth-Chestnut
Sir, The first time I gave a lift to a hitch-hiker I was so nervous about being assaulted that I kept a knife handy about my person. Sure enough, he suddenly made a threatening gesture but, being prepared, I was able to overpower him. It then transpired that he was not threatening me at all, simply reaching for his cigarettes. But as I had overpowered him I felt I had to go through with it and proceeded to rob him of his worldly possessions. I now regularly pick up and rob any hitch-hiker I can find. Not only does it give me a useful income, it gives me a chance to meet people of all walks of life.

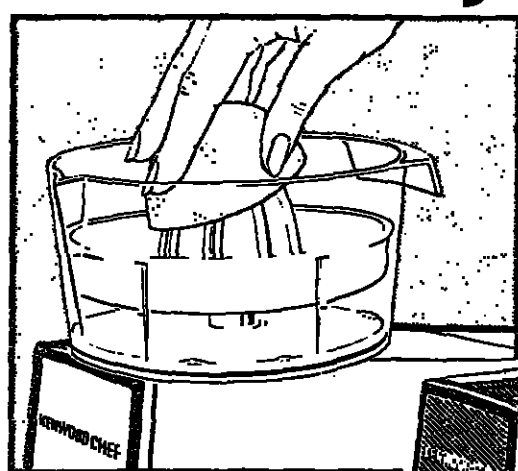
Tomorrow

The Times Guide
to the
World Athletics
Championships

CONCISE CROSSWORD
(No 118)

- ACROSS**
- 1 Condiment (6)
 - 2 United (6)
 - 3 Simpleton (3)
 - 4 Reddish-brown (6)
 - 5 Legest (6)
 - 6 Miserly (4)
 - 7 Reproduction (8)
 - 8 Brought bad luck (6)
 - 9 Sweet entertainer (7)
 - 10 Timesaver (8)
 - 11 Business place (6)
 - 12 Infinite period (3)
 - 13 Engraver (6)
 - 14 Confectionery (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Develop (5)
 - 2 Legendary bird (7)
 - 3 Unopened flower (7)
 - 4 Burning (5)
 - 5 Miserly (4)
 - 6 Stretch (7)
 - 7 Restrained (7)
 - 8 Garment fasteners (7)
 - 9 Breathe noisily (7)
 - 10 Uneven (5)
 - 11 Apple drink (5)
 - 12 Old coin (3)

SOLUTION TO No 117
ACROSS: 1 Follow 4 Famine 7 Rent 8 Extremes 9 Assembly 12 Pys 15 Crispy 16 Gloria 17 Wet 19 Leap year 24 Tomahawk 25 Tell 26 Beddit 27 Arctic
DOWN: 1 Fury 2 Landslide 3 Whelm 4 Fatal 5 Mien 6 Deadly 10 Expat 11 Yolk 12 Parakeet 13 Xmas 14 Snow 18 Evolve 20 Exact 21 Pukka 22 Raps 23 Bice

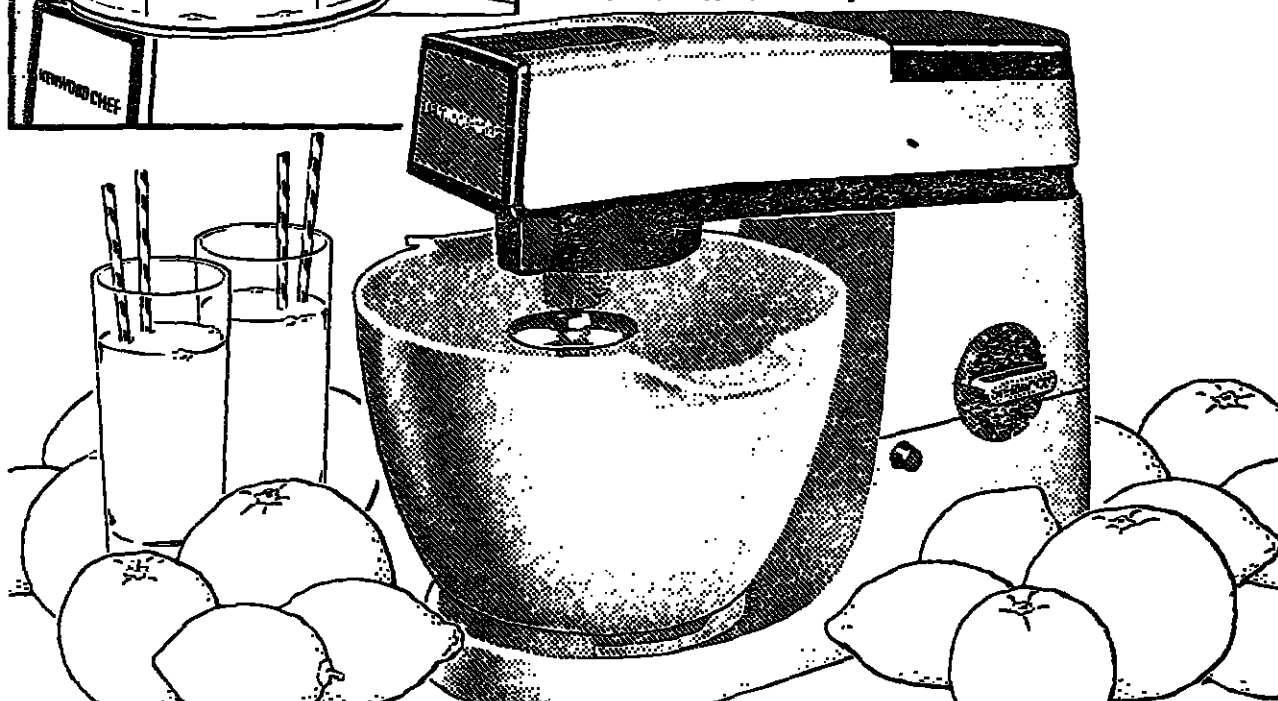
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FINDINGS

A series reporting on research:
JAPAN

Gallons of
tree-star

Japan, which is acutely self-conscious about its lack of energy resources, is applying its much acclaimed technical brilliance to developing a process to convert trees into oil. So successful have the experiments been, that the oil - a kind of turpentine - is able to drive a light farming truck with the same efficiency as petrol. Also the exhaust gases, are pleasant smelling, giving off a 'wood' odour.

To Japan, the technique could be little short of a miracle. Nearly 70 per cent of the land is covered in forest. The technique used to produce the oil has stunned the Japanese in its simplicity. Leaves and small pieces are shredded and boiled in a vat. After cooling and purifying, the resultant liquid is expected to cater to over 20 million visitors will have a Theme Pavilion, a History Pavilion, an Expo Centre and a Science Playland.

Sea power

The Theme Pavilion is to give a perspective of the future of science and technology, while the History Pavilion will show how Japan has adopted western science and technology and assimilated them into oriental learning. The Expo Centre is to have the most advanced electronic image projection equipment and is to be used to show how research and development is being undertaken in Japan. The different research work being conducted in the adjacent Tsukuba Science City will be exhibited at the centre.

The plant uses this innovation in parallel with diesel generators and is expected to produce 50 KW.

Fair Pavilions
Preparations for Japan's international science and technology exhibition, to be

held in 1985 at Tsukuba, are at an advanced stage. The exhibition, which will run between March and September, will be used as a forum to show Japanese research and technology to the world.

The Japanese intend it to be spectacular. Their organising committee has visited 18 countries as diverse as

can be projected on to screens as large as 8.5 ft by 11 ft.

Further research is being made on 3-D television and on one called a "Styletetter". According to Matsushita researchers, the television "shows how you'll look in a different hairstyle or with a moustache".

Abundant
A Japanese designer of an automatic bun machine is having substantial success at home and in the overseas markets. The machines designed by Torahiko Hayashi, president of Rheon Automatic Machinery, are being used all over the world.

The research into the machine design began to bear fruit in the early 1960s when Hayashi made equipment that produced large quantities of manjio buns - dough surrounding bean jam - at almost 50,000 an hour. Conventional methods produced them at the rate of a few hundred. So successful was the design, that confectioners wouldn't buy it until it was slowed down.

The jam is forced into the inner sleeve of a cylinder and the dough into the outer one. Emerging from this process are twin cylinders of jam and dough to round into buns.

CORRECTION

The ferry Scillonian III, plying between Penzance and the Isles of Scilly, is equipped with a keel, modern stabilising system, and ballast tanks and is not a flat-bottomed vessel, as stated in an article (July 22) on the Scillies helicopter crash.

150 من الأصل

BOOKS

The House of Commons, 1660-1690

Edited by Basil Duke Henning
(Secker & Warburg, £110, 3-volume set)

The House of Commons 1660-1690 is the fifth chunk of the massive prosopographical undertaking, the *History of Parliament* that has been set on foot in pursuance of Sir Lewis Namier's conviction that the way to understand political history is through the personalities and interests of individual people in leading positions, and not through the flawed lenses of social abstractions such as classes or parties, let alone "schools of thought". The four previous instalments have dealt with the Tudors from Henry VIII to the death of Elizabeth and with the Hanoverians from George I down to 1790 and George III's first bout of madness. Much more is promised, everything back to 1386 (very near half-time in the reign of Richard II) and down to 1832. For unstated reasons no provision has yet been made for the great bulk of the

fifteenth century or for the period from Charles I's dissolving of Parliament in 1629 to the restoration of his son in 1660. Nor, it seems, is the story to be pressed back to Simon de Montfort and the Model Parliament of 1265.

In the meanwhile there is plenty to be going on with in the period from 1660 to 1690. It includes the longest and colourfully disgraced reign of Charles II, the four years needed to nerve his exasperated subjects, despite unhappy recollections of the 1640s, to get rid of his silly brother, and the Convention Parliament of 1689 which installed that sound Protestant couple, William and Mary, in the constitutionally unprecedented role of joint monarchs.

The work's 2,343 pages are divided into three unequal sections. A hundred or so pages are given to preliminaries, most importantly an account of the members of the house in general terms of age, wealth, education, social status and so on, and, following that, of their degrees and kinds of political activity. The next four hundred pages cover the constituencies, listing their members and describing

the main local influences and the way they operated in the seven elections of the period. From then on it is all a marvellously detailed who's who, emphasizing the parliamentary life of the two thousand members, to the extent that, to the reader, the names of the members of the house in general terms of age, wealth, education, social status and so on, and, following that, of their degrees and kinds of political activity. The next four hundred pages cover the constituencies, listing their members and describing

The work has been edited by Basil Duke Henning, who took over in 1962 when still a professor at Yale and has carried on with it since 1978 and retirement to London. In relation to the amazing detective work involved he is, one might say, the Philip Marlowe. Like that great investigator he relies much on others, most notably Leonard Naylor, who

Anthony Quinton on the changeless face of the MP

Rogues, lawyers and duellists

not only wrote 150 of the two thousand-odd biographies but also identified the subjects of most of them and supplied outlines to guide the final authors in each case. This remarkable, inquisitor to the Henning's Marlowe as are the latter's friends in press-rooms and police record departments who come up, in memory of old favours, with the real names of the rising film star in trouble or the driver of the getaway car in the Sunny Moe Stein killing.

It is possible to detect a note of quiet pride in the statement: "only one member - John Tufton - has defied identification." Men with less to be proud of would have said "eluded". Ninety-seven per cent of the subjects have been supplied with pretty well-evidenced birth-dates. Despite the facts that he was Scotch and

biased, Bishop Burnet is commended for his penetrating accounts of the characters of the Two Thousand. As a group they were younger than modern MPs, half of them being between 30 and 50, only a third of them over 50. Even at the end of the Cavalier Parliament, dissolved after seventeen and a half years in 1679, on the edge of the Exclusion crisis, only half the MPs were over 50. Monck's worthless son Christopher was elected at the age of 13 and made a speech before he was 15. No doubt he sounded like a maiden. Only one MP died of the plague; at least two succumbed to syphilis. Of the 46 known to have died violently four were executed, four were killed in brawls and six in duels.

One duellist who comes out well is the atheist Thomas Wharton who lost a duel to someone who was after the

same woman as he was and who "gave him both his life and his mistress too, since he had the courage to fight for her". His biographer goes on: "He was never again worried in a duel, without serious injury. He boasted that he never gave and never refused a challenge."

By no means all were as gallant and Stevensonian as that. An MP, called, I regret to say, Philip Howard, "after separation from his wife, a wealthy widow who had tricked him over his jointure, ... hired a couple of ruffians who beat two of her servants to death". At least three MPs abducted juvenile heiresses; one of them in effect buying the 14-year-old heiress to the Percy estates and getting murdered as a result. One of the no less than four MPs called Edward Montagu made a pass at Queen Catherine

of Braganza, who mentioned it, as well she might, to Charles II. But Montagu only lost his place at Court.

The social character of the Restoration MPs is unsurprising. Thirty per cent were at Oxford, eighteen per cent at Cambridge. Quite a few went to Leyden. 273 went to some sort of Grand Tour. Three quarters of them were country gentlemen; half of them being country gentlemen and nothing else. Less than half attended one of the Inns of Court. Of the unusually large number of lawyers in the Convention Parliament the editor finely says, "this is a phenomenon which has defied explanation". Marvell and Waller were the best of the poets. Another poet, John Denham, I have to admit, "went mad with tertiary syphilis and, aged fifty, murdered his newish adolescent wife."

One in ten was a peer's son, another three in ten were the sons of baronets or knights. Only four per cent were of "humble" origin. Of the few naval men one was Sir Richard Haddock, possibly an ancestor of Tintin's nautical friend. No less than 85 per cent were JPs.

Sir Gervase Clifton, the Tommy Manville of late seventeenth century British politics, married seven times (and he was not the single MP who managed to get a divorce). Stephen Fox, having had ten children by his first wife, remarried at 76 and then sired two sons and two daughters.

Much of what is best known to the naive historian is little evident in this work: the Plague, the Fire, the Dutch Wars, Titus Oates, the policies of Louis XIV. MPs seem preoccupied with place, if they are on the government side, with religious or constitutional matters when in opposition. Here, at any rate, is a magnificent accumulation of material for serious historians to work from. They and others may also enjoy a persistent vigour and elegance of style. This comment on a parliamentary rotter is typical: "Other Members enjoyed the favours of their colleagues' wives but they did so more discreetly and did not compound the offence by robbery."

■ The Times Guide to the House of Commons is to be published on August 18th.

Fiction
Summer sorceryThe Illusionist
By Anita Mason

(Hamish Hamilton, £8.95)

The River Why
By David James Duncan

(Hutchinson, £8.50)

Through the long hot summer flows the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River of fiction. O Best Beloved, all set about with fever trees. There is no escaping an epidemic of historical novels, some of them seriously sickening. But Anita Mason's outbreak into ancient history is healthier than most - much better, say, than Norman Mailer's *Ancient Evenings*, about which I dream and wake up screaming in the night.

The Illusionist is about Simon Magus: necromancer, sorcerer of Samaria, inspiration of the Faust legend. It is about magic, miracles, and the difference between the two, in purpose and performance. The difference is crucial: absolute. The most intelligent can find it the most difficult to perceive. Miss Mason has done a lot of thinking about that.

Her purpose is to explain it, and she does, in nearly 300 pages of plausible action, vivid characters, and interestingly tense argument across the inconsistent, paradoxical teachings of a man "who said things so clever that nobody could understand them, and sent out a bunch of peasants to repeat them to other people who couldn't understand them either". It is from a sequel to that man's life, and work, and death by crucifixion, at Golgotha, under a merciless sun, that Miss Mason picks up threads to weave a story set in about 45 AD.

Such is her sensibility as a writer that she deliberately leaves dangling throughout the novel the vital thread perceived with blinding clarity by someone who was not a peasant; whose name was Saul. He changed his name accordingly. Tell, O Best Beloved: what does

Paul mean in Greek? "My Greek isn't perfect, you know". If researchers and complex musings on the life and times of Simon Magus sound more taxing on the intellect than holiday sunshine - or even whatever church you call Mother - might seem to demand, you can read all about it in Acts viii, verses 1-24. It will take you two minutes; the New Testament is briskly dismissive of illusionists, as of illusions.

But Miss Mason does a fine job, in language not quite satisfactorily balanced between literary dialectic and modern colloquial debate. Simon's trouble was that he thought he could buy his way across the divide between his magic, with precise laws and procedures founded upon fakery, and Philip's miracles, worked in unimagineable freedom and total helplessness, by the power of God. "Are you telling me that all anyone has to do to calm storms and raise the dead and come back from the grave is to believe that this man was the Deliverer?" "Yes," said Philip. "Miss Mason can be pretty brisk, herself. For there was nothing the matter with Simon's intelligence. It was just that he never knew how to use it."

David James Duncan uses considerable intelligence to wildly over-embellish effect in *The River Why*, a first novel about the mystery (and meaning) of life (and love) in the Oregon wilderness. Young Gus Orviston is a fisherman sufficiently obsessed with fishing to allow first-person free play with more philosophical and metaphysical wrigglers than Mr Duncan's present writing skills can handle without losing readers; but loving concern for a natural environment exceptionally beautiful is all of a piece with Oregonian determination to keep it that way. "Ecology" - it can seem to non-Oregonians - is every Oregonian's middle name. Mr Duncan is no exception. Forget the "James".

Gay Firth



J. Claude White: Nuns at the nunnery of Tatsang, 1903

Snaps of paradise lost

Tibet

The Sacred Realm
Photographs 1880-1950
Preface by the Dalai Lama
Chronicle by Lobsang P. Lhalungpa
(Aperture/Phaidon, £21.50)

The exiled Dalai Lama has a double dose of nostalgia. After 24 years in India the fourteenth incarnation of Buddha (discovered when he was two years old) sickens for Tibet. Pending a rapprochement with the Chinese he may return in 1985. Yet his preface to this collection of 140 historic photographs demonstrates more common symptoms: his prose is shot through with the wistful melancholy that attends thoughts not of the unattainable homeland but of the years that cannot be relived. For the new beauties of Tibet are of Chinese manufacture, wrought through terror and the systematic desecration of monasteries during the "mistakes" of the Cultural Revolution. Stacks of *Mani* stones, painted with mantras and piled by the roadside by travellers as an act of devotion, have been used by the Chinese to pave lavatories.

Whatever the intentions behind the photographs in this volume, taken by miscellaneous

naturalists, Himalayan climbers, missionaries and political crackpots, these neat pictorial slices of time actively promote nostalgia for a prelapsarian Tibet. All are elegant and touched with pathos, indeed, the passage of time has positioned even the most amateurish snapshot at the level of art. Some of the finest photographs of Tibetan life and architecture were taken by the Indian government official John Claude White (1883-1918), who was contemptuous of the Tibetans' refusal to take part in what Kipling described as "The Great Game" of British and Russian imperialism in Asia.

White was second in command to Colonel Francis Younghusband during the 1904 military mission to Tibet, during which 1,000 Tibetans were killed while resisting British attempts to enforce Curzon's policy of checking Russian expansion into central Asia. In common with all Western travellers to Tibet fired through religious or political motives with a desire to gain entrance to the Forbidden City of Lhasa, White's camera turned instinctively to recording examples of the exotic and the primitive: to the bizarre coiffure of nuns at Tatsang in

1903 and (by means of a complicated four-sheet panorama) the awesome and vertiginous Potala (1904).

The *Sacred Realm* is an exception to the general rule that exhibition catalogues do not make good books. The plates are finely printed from a show at the Philadelphia Museum of Art which can be seen in Houston this autumn and in New York next spring.

Tibet's immunity from the compressed technological changes of the industrial west and its apparently harmonious integration of temporal and spiritual concerns has long afforded it Utopian status among travellers for whom difficulty of access merely added to the mystery. The biographies of contributors to this book comprise a cornucopia of the maverick and the quixotic. But note especially the demise of the naturalist Dr Alexander Wollaston, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and medical officer for the 1921 Everest expedition: having survived the rigours of a journey to Tibet and back he was shot dead by an undergraduate in Cambridge.

Rory Coonan

Poetry

Disfigured doodles

I notice that these days the Scottish poet Norman MacCaig is much praised for his honesty, modesty, and wit. Reading his latest slim volume *A World of Difference* (Chato & Windus/The Corgi Press, £3.95) it is not hard to see why. Here, for example, is the beginning of a poem called *Running bull*:

All his weight's forward.
He looks like a big black hunchback
with a small black boy running
behind him.
Fus an invisible sixpence on the ground.
He'll turn on it.
So don't, if he's facing away
from you.
People scatter. I scatter too.

Pleasant, amusing, with just enough originality in the actual description of the creature for us to feel that the poet is doing something more than show off his good humour. The tone and the manner are typical. For the most part, these poems consist of empathetic descriptions of the natural world - sometimes a bit Disneyish, but no matter - matched to expressions of the writer's sense of being somehow an intruder in that world because he has the gift of translating it into images. It seems curious to complain, but I do detect a disfiguring note of self-satisfaction in MacCaig's refusal to write about anything which might possibly disturb him at a deeper level. For a brief time, about 25 years ago, he seemed on the verge of becoming a major poet, a sort of twentieth-century John Donne, and we do his talents a disservice if we let him forget it. Elegance is no substitute for urgency, and too great a proportion of his recent work looks like doodling with his left hand while his heart has forty winks. To be fair, in a poem

called *Enough* included here, he appears to address himself to this specific criticism when he writes:

I don't want to shuffle in a
Greek Theatre
chanting powerful platitudes
while Nemesis, off-stage, gouges
and stabs.

But that is to load the dice. Nobody wants to shuffle, chant, or strut - only to engage again with the kind of truth-telling he expressed in his line *hard feeling is true exercise for wit*. Wit without hard feeling makes for whimsy, and I'm afraid that's what we have in the present book.

A similar charge could be brought against much of the work in Charles Causley's *Collected Poems 1951-1975* (Macmillan, £4.95), but then Causley has always been a difficult case. At first sight, he seems naive and derivative, a writer whose frequent recourse to traditional ballad forms cheapens his own vision, achieving vigour at the cost of sensitivity. His best things, though, tell if not a different story then at least a more troubling and memorable one:

As I walked down by the river
Down by the frozen fen
I saw the grey cathedral
With the eyes of a child of ten.
O the railway arch is smoky
As the Flying Scot goes by
And but for the Education Act
Go Jumper Cross and I.

That, I submit, is unmistakably the real thing, and even if the last two lines make you wonder if the poet *intends* you to wonder, to come down to earth with bang. Here, in short, is a genuinely popular poet, who can sing both high and low, and whose finest effects spring from a calculated interlarding of the

romantic and the realistic. I should add that there is also a note of sheer celebration in Causley's work which makes him unusual among other twentieth century poets who have called themselves Christians.

Donald Davie, for instance, seems in the period covered by his *Collected Poems 1971-1983* (Corgi Press, £5.95) to have refound his roots in the Protestant tradition, but unfortunately this experience has not warmed or renewed his verse-making. Rather, his religious figures in poem after poem as yet another opportunity for inhibition. One piece escapes, and has sufficient life to allow me to think that the poet in Davie has not quite been extinguished by his didactic critical intelligence - a strange poem called *In the Stopping Train*. This man in the stopping train tries to pass the time and comfort himself by staring out of the window at flowers, but even as he does so he accuses himself of knowing only their names and not their identities.

*Jonquil is a sweet word.
Is it a flowering bush?
Let him helplessly wonder
for hours if perhaps he's seen it.*

*Has it a white and yellow
flower, the jonquil? Has it
a perfume? Oh his art could
always pretend it had.*

*He never needed to see,
not with his art to help him.
He never needed to use his
nose, except for language.*

I find that almost too moving to quote in public. I only wish that this man in the stopping train had written some of the other poems in the book.

Robert Nye

The cost of freedom

Pasternak

A Biography
By Ronald Hingley
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95)

The final note is one of triumph, through all the tragic counterpoint of Boris Pasternak's life and times (1890-1960), illuminated so superbly by Ronald Hingley in this enthralling biography. None so well qualified as Mr Hingley to make plain the complexities of this extraordinary Russian dissident poet, whose novel *Doctor Zhivago* brought him international attention. Mr Hingley's authority in the field of Russian literature is of high distinction, as biographer and translator. One is immediately aware that the author thoroughly understands the conflict and ambiguity of Russian and Soviet society, parallels which in the case of Pasternak and his contemporaries interlink, almost psychologically.

Much has been written about Pasternak's work, yet in the main, Mr Hingley found that as a man with his loves, his marriages, his living conditions, his temperament, he remained "faceless". Isaiah Berlin's chapter, *Meetings with Russian Writers 1945 & 1946*, gave us a stringent flavour, and last year's publication of letters exchanged between Pasternak and his cousin, Olga Friedenberg, covered some of the gaps, as does Olga Ivinskaya's *A Captive of Time*, which records the passion and dedication of her years as Pasternak's last, and deepest, love.

Chronologically the biographical facts are known, from that Jewish artistic liberal background, privileged enough to provide nannies, tutors and foreign travel. Mr Hingley places all these pre-revolution-

The cost of freedom

ary years before us, building up his portrait of a born poet, early influenced by Rilke and Mayakovsky. The Revolution was welcomed by Pasternak, family and friends, as indeed all liberal Russian opinion welcomed the demise of Tsarist tyranny. With considerable skill Mr Hingley deals with Pasternak's conflict about the actual Revolution, when, initially, he veered towards hero-worship of Stalin to the detestation of the horror of the thirties. He never hid his disgust nor failed to condemn injustice or brutality, and confronted Stalin himself. It is probable, states Mr Hingley, that for some fanciful whim Stalin decreed that Pasternak should not be touched, possibly admiring his courage for speaking his mind. A terrifying picture is built up of what life was like (maybe still is) for creative people struggling to work as they please in a totalitarian society. The prospect is fearful, and can, really, only be dimly apprehended by those free to express themselves as they wish.

Probably the most fascinating part of this biography relates to Pasternak in love. There was the first naive, young marriage, superseded by marriage to Zinaida, which soon proved to be a match of incompatibles. Zinaida was a conformist Soviet housewife and clung on, refusing divorce when Olga Ivinskaya came on the scene. The year was 1946, a horribly repressive time. Pasternak suffering from a four year work block, Mr Hingley's narrative sparkles when it comes to that fateful meeting between Olga and Pasternak. Mr Hingley, an editor on the literary *Novyi mir*, and Pasternak, 20 years her senior, "I never thought", he said, "I'd know such joy again". It took

him six months to declare himself, and then after walking the Moscow streets all night, arriving at Olga's door in the early morning.

She was a remarkable woman, courageous, life-enhancing. Theirs was an incredibly passionate love affair, although one does rather feel Pasternak was a bit of weakling, spending his time between his wife and Olga's household. Not daring to touch Pasternak the authorities condemned Olga to a labour camp. Pasternak's plea to Stalin to take him instead was never answered. Mr Hingley's detailed account of the Nobel Prize granted for *Doctor Zhivago* rather more than for Pasternak's poetry makes near unbearable reading with its horrific consequences for Pasternak, and for Olga deprived of her right to work. Pasternak made it a condition of his refusing the prize that Olga's Union card be restored. Following Pasternak's death, Olga was again interned, on trumped-up currency charges. She survived, however, to write her vivid memoir of their fourteen years of continuously passionate love. An interesting sidelight offered is Khrushchev's rage with the secretary of the Soviet Writers Union for denying Pasternak publication of *Doctor Zhivago* and for failing to make clear that he was a world famous author. Mr Hingley's book is full of equally riveting anecdotes. "To live your life is not so simple as to cross a field", wrote Pasternak in his *Cycle of poems to Doctor Zhivago*. Not simple at all as this superb biography shows. Yet, finally, Pasternak achieved his simplicity in near impossible social conditions: he wrote as a free man.

Kay Dick

Mutual puffers

Pound/Ford

The Story of a Literary Friendship
Edited by
Brita Lindberg-Seyerstedt
(Faber, £20)

Poor old Ford! His life was a complicated mess, he seldom managed to produce work worthy of his genius, he never achieved due recognition in his lifetime (or since) - and, to cap it all, he was a friend of Ezra Pound's. This was fine as far as their puffing of each other's works went; over thirty years they scarcely published a bad word about each other. But on the personal level, it was not always such easy going.

Both men were of course notoriously "difficult" characters, and it is not surprising that they fell out fairly often over the years. But one must pity Ford chiefly for having to read Pound's letters. It is hard to think of a more tiresomely affected epistolary stylist (Larry Adler perhaps?):

The reason this age is such a mass of snot is purely because the idea of mental ROT has been mislaid. Protestant shallows.

All they can smell is sewer.
The idea that Jim Douglas of the Sunday Morning Stool and

99 percent of Brit publication STINKS... has been eliminated from Ang/Shaxon imagination.

And so on, and on. The bulk of this book, handsomely produced (but overpriced) by Faber, consists of letters between Ford and Pound, and is also quotes at length from their reviews and memoirs of each other. Ms Lindberg-Seyerstedt has approached her editing task with the kind of heavy diligence one expects of transatlantic scholarship, though this seems in fact to be a Norwegian-American co-production. Annotation is, however, curiously inconsistent.

It is good to have this account of a literary relationship of considerable importance in the history of modernism. A pity that the material collected is mostly so unengaging and uninteresting (the majority of the letters are concerned largely with business matters). The real substance of the Ford-Pound friendship probably lies elsewhere, in the conversations of Pound's early days in London, when Ford was briefly at the centre of the modern movement, but there we are: *verba fugiunt, scripta manent*.

Nigel Andrew

...the Times Educational Supplement... a thoroughly admirable publication; essential reading for the serious and ambitious school-teacher... one of the advantages enjoyed by an eighty-page educational magazine is the wealth of literary talent hanging around our colleges and universities waiting to write the odd freelance article. Which is why the TES is able to cover so much eclectic ground. (Roy Hattersley, *Punch* March 16 1983).

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BALANCE-SHEET OF MEDICINE

The curious affair of the Whipp's Cross hospital is only one of many signs of how deeply the NHS has been rattled by developments since the election. Faced with a succession of novel and unsettling initiatives by the Government, it is no surprise if parts of the service themselves begin to fall back on improvisation, with an eye to political effect.

Whipp's Cross hospital, faced with the call for more spending cuts in the current year, announced this week that it would turn away patients living outside a "catchment area" determined by the hospital itself, except for serious emergencies and references to named consultants. By this means the hospital hopes to avoid treating many hundreds of patients in a full year, and consequently to save itself the expense of doing so. Whether or not the patients eventually find treatment elsewhere, they will not figure as a charge on the budget of Whipp's Cross hospital.

Clearly this is no way to manage the resources of a national public service designed to meet social need. The rapid, if rather baffled, protest by the Regional Health Authority shows that it sees how damaging the practice could be if it spread. This is not at all what is meant by the use of initiative in seeking ways of cutting costs. Neighbouring hospitals in similar financial straits would be given a strong market incentive to impose a similar rule. Patients would be thrown back on a family practitioner service, which in the East End is acknowledged to have marked shortcomings – the very reason why many patients presented themselves at hospital in the first place.

It is a London problem, and a "hospitals-versus-GPs" problem: as such it points to several of the worst areas of potential friction in the NHS today. London's position in the perpetual haggling over distribution of finance is paradoxical: it is at once embarrassingly over-provided, with world-famous teaching hospitals and specialist institutions, and painfully under-provided, in areas where the provision of hospitals has inhibited the development of GP services.

For many years, and rightly, successive governments have progressively channelled national funds away from regions which get more than an equal share. London is one of these, and the consequences for

the weaker areas of its services have been harsh. The reallocation formula is designed to take account of these factors, and it is a matter of hot dispute whether it does so adequately. But the fact is that scarcity of resources for the NHS as a whole is subjectively perceived most painfully by those who manage it in London and other apparently fortunate places.

As far as national expenditure is concerned, nothing is gained by one hospital palming off patients on its neighbours. But any accounting system which provides incentives to efficiency at the local level (which should in principle be best placed to judge how resources should be allocated) is apt also to create incentives to the minimizing, regardless of efficiency, of any loss-making activity. A similar factor was exposed last month when Mr Lawson demanded savings from the hospitals to compensate for an anticipated overspend in GP services.

Hospitals are cash-limited, which means that if there are more patients dying of kidney disease than budgeted facilities to cure them (and there always are), the surplus of patients are given only palliative treatment, and will die. General practice, by contrast, is demand-led: whoever turns up has a right to expect some sort of appropriate treatment, and it is for the doctor to combine efficiency and economy as best he can. It is statistically possible to estimate the annual cost, but last year the Government chose to budget on the basis of a low estimate, and now naturally finds it likely that the budget will be exceeded. Having no means of enforcing retrenchment on the GPs, it has imposed it on the hospitals instead. A certain rough justice can be claimed for the procedure, as the hospitals have not been aware of the savings to be made by hurrying in-patients out into the community, and back on to the GP budget.

These rather ignominious expedients are only what is to be expected when each part of the service is under pressure to do its best for itself and those it serves: it would be unworthy to expect otherwise. But as the Government considers further economy drives, with more specific requirements, for instance on staffing, than ever before (and correspondingly less scope for constructive local discretion) it is worth bearing in mind that such campaigns cannot be carried out without danger of paper savings

harmful to actual services, short-term fudging which will cost more in the long run, distortions of allocation between costly hospitals and economical general practice, and intensified rivalries between different arms of the service. At both governmental and managerial level it will be essential not to lose sight of the fundamental purpose of the service, and to use resources as best serves the patient, not the balance-sheet.

It is still true that the Government has treated the NHS fairly, compared to other parts of the public sector. The constraints on future public expenditure are so severe that it is inevitable that the NHS will have to bear its share of hardship. More debate is needed about what its due share should be. Mr Fowler can claim that even after the Lawson bounce (which concerned an overrun on allocations however arrived at) there has been no betrayal of his promise that NHS spending as a whole would not be cut.

The commitment to a growth in real terms of half of one per cent a year over the next decade still stands. But there is no escaping the fact that this scheme implies some deterioration of services. Local interest will have to be subordinated to wider interest.

The ten-year commitment falls short of meeting fully the extra demand caused by the growing proportion of old people among us, let alone the extra cost of taking advantage of new developments in medicine. (In the nature of things, technological advance tends more often than in industry to lead to extra costs further down the line, rather than outright savings.) The recent Richmond Fellowship report on services for the mentally ill showed in another context how the praiseworthy ambition to improve patient turnover can have the effect, without proper and responsible planning, of making budgets healthier and patients sicker.

The health debate that is needed in the months ahead must not be conducted in terms of unattainable ideals, whether social or fiscal. But the public has a right to ask that the alternatives be faced with more truth and frankness than they have been up to now, and that whatever hardship may be unavoidable is shared, through compassion and good management, so as best to protect the NHS's most vulnerable customers (who happen also to be its most costly).

NEWS FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA

The restrictions on foreign journalists which the "front line" southern African states have agreed upon in the reporting of their affairs sounded pretty stringent when they were announced in Harare last weekend. Foreign correspondents accredited to South Africa or reporting to bureaux there would not be allowed in any more, and that accounts for most foreign correspondents in the region. The new policy would be applied immediately and "very, very firmly," said Zimbabwe's deputy secretary for information. They wanted a "total information disengagement" from South Africa.

However, the meeting had no sooner broken up before it was stated in Botswana, one of the front liners, that its representative was not authorized to sign the document and the matter had not been discussed by the government. It was also noticed that correspondents based in South Africa would be excluded "in principle" and exceptions would be made of specially

invited journalists. And the BBC correspondent, who was required to leave Zimbabwe as the first victim of the ban, was told on parting that he might be invited back again for the 1985 elections, which, if not sarcastic, sounds like a good humoured remark.

Zimbabwe now offers further interpretation: the ban will be selective, depending on whether journalists have or have not given cause for offence in the past. Since these states are already in the habit of exercising their discretion as to which journalists they shall admit, it may be that the old policy may not in the end turn out to be very different from present practice. That is very much to be hoped, for it is to the benefit of all parties that no new barriers be erected.

The ostensible reason for the restriction is that the reporting of foreign correspondents based in South Africa gives credibility to "Pretoria's biased view of reality in southern Africa". That will surprise most of them and it will certainly surprise Pretoria, which

has its own restrictions and regards most journalists, home or foreign, as something of a liberal menace.

There is more than a touch of Unescoism in the expression of the new policy with its reference to "a new international information order" and emphasis on regional news agencies. It may also be conceived as a further gesture to impose isolation on South Africa; or as a way of steering foreign correspondents, and the hard currency they bring, towards the black capitals. That is a proper ambition, but they will first have to improve their communications.

Newspapers, news agencies and broadcasters deploy their resources in that region as they do for reasons of economy and working convenience. It would be a great pity if the black African states were to put obstacles in the way of the world reporting of the region's affairs because of any misapprehension about the attitude of the news gathering organizations and their staffs.

NO LAISSEZ-PASSER

The scene is Dover Western Docks. An SNCF car ferry has just arrived. Immigration officials stand ready, bored at the prospect of another stream of Renaults en route for Marks and Spencer and the changing of the guard. But what's this? A *char-a-banc* full of brown maghrebin faces and flowing white robes. Immigration officials, trained to spot an octocorn at twenty paces in the dusk, are having no truck with flimsy *cartes d'identité*. Protests of EEC citizenship go unheeded: these are obviously would-be illegal immigrants. Send them back.

Fiction, but a not implausible reversal of what may have happened last weekend in Calais, and not for the first time. Imagine the fuss in Paris were the brown faces to belong to Frenchmen. Concern would be justified. France, like Britain, is a nation of colour, its history and empire visible in both *bidonville* and the obligations assumed by the French state towards its ethnic minorities. French port

officials are responding to a clear decision by the Mitterrand government to make an issue of race and immigration; it seems to have acted with a marked lack of concern for the knock-on effects of its policy for at least one of its EEC neighbours.

The domestic justification for the policy – perhaps scouting that unpleasant brand of blue-collar gallic racism embraced so warmly by the French Communist Party – is one thing. A lack of care in announcing it. France's allies is another. The French action has left it rather unclear whether the 1971 memorandum of understanding remains in force allowing ad hoc British identity cards to be substituted for full passports. Surely it is in the interests of France, the economy of the Pas de Calais, and the shopkeepers of Boulogne for the trade in day and short-term visits to be encouraged: the non-passport arrangements are a sensible means of dealing with the huge flow and should be retained.

Under the 1971 memorandum citizens of the Commonwealth and the Republic of Ireland have been allowed this excursion privilege. Do the French consider that the new Nationality Act regulations alter the status quo; was the Foreign Office careless in tracing through the consequences of the Act for such minor international obligations as imposed by the memorandum? Both Governments have an educational responsibility in informing the travelling public of any new arrangements.

Meanwhile, the rights of British citizens who happen to be black or brown must be protected in the same way as those of Frenchmen of Martinique or Algerian descent. This protection must extend to harassment from zealous port officials. If black Britons possessing the same documents as their white fellow travellers were, or are ever refused entry to France, it would – as the French themselves seemed yesterday to acknowledge – constitute a scandal.

Radioactive waste dumping at sea

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Seamen

Sir, Like charity, concern for the environment begins at home. So I was disappointed to find you had devoted a leading article (July 20) to the activities of Greenpeace in Siberia and the ecological impact of Soviet industrial policies rather than to an environmental controversy now raging here in Britain in which Greenpeace has also been involved.

I refer to plans by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority to dump nearly 4,000 tonnes of deadly radioactive waste some 500 miles from Land's End. This was due to start on July 11 but, thanks to the actions of the National Union of Seamen, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the train drivers' union Aslef, the dump ship Atlantic Fisher has been stranded at Barrow and the waste has failed to reach Sharpness, the port at which it was due to be loaded.

As a result it appears that the UKAEA's plans must now be abandoned and the British Government will be forced to comply with the wishes of a clear majority represented on the London Dumping Convention, the United Nations-sponsored agency which regulates the disposal of all potentially hazardous wastes at sea.

The NUS has been inundated with messages of support from individuals and organizations around the world, including Jacques Cousteau, the mayors of towns and cities along the French and Spanish Atlantic seaboard, scientific groups, environmentalists and seafarers' unions. Given the attitude of our Government towards trade unionism, it is ironic that it has taken a successful act of defiance against Government policy by three unions to protect Britain's good name in the international maritime community.

As you said in an admirable leading article on the subject earlier this year, it is not possible, either technically or politically, to go on using the sea indefinitely as a nuclear dump site. It is not therefore time for the Government and the UKAEA, which are responsible for dumping 80 per cent of the nuclear waste tipped into the world's oceans, to announce an end to this short-sighted and irresponsible activity? Yours faithfully, JIM SLATER, General Secretary, National Union of Seamen, Maritime House, Oldtown, Clapham, SW4.

Paid jobs for all

From the Chairman of Youth Call

Sir, What I found missing in Mr Francis Bennion's letter (July 28) was a recognition of the fact that there is a host of unmet needs in the community which could be undertaken by those who would otherwise be unemployed, or by young people as part of their training for life. Thousands of such jobs, a care for the elderly and the handicapped, in hospitals and schools, in nature conservation and elsewhere, have been listed in successive reports prepared for the Government or by bodies such as the LSE.

The Government is rightly seeking to avoid the creation of meaningless jobs. But it does need to provide the framework and the incentives to enable the community to benefit from the energies of those for whom, as Mr Bennion says, society is unlikely to be able to provide paid jobs in the normal sense. This need cost very little more than what is saved on the dole for those concerned.

Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS STACEY, Chairman, Youth Call, Springfield, Maidstone, Kent, August 1.

Intimations of mortality

From Mr Noel Woolf

Sir, The most specific of all intimations of mortality is to be found on a departmental pass issued to me by the British Museum earlier this year. It has a photograph (mine), a serial number, my name and the baldest possible message: "Expires May 8, 1984".

The time is not included. I will let you know if it comes to pass.

Yours hopefully, NOEL WOOLF, Flat 7B, Bedford Towers, Kings Road, Brighton, Sussex, August 1.

Transport in London

From Mr Cyril J. E. Taylor

Sir, The Conservative group on the Greater London Council believes that London Transport should remain under the supervision of a democratically elected London-wide local authority. We therefore oppose Government plans to transfer London Transport from the GLC to the Department of Transport.

However, your leader of July 27 criticizing the details of the White Paper is not justified. Surely, the worst thing the Secretary of State for Transport could have done would be to set up a huge new quango with its own rate precepting powers. He has avoided this by recommending instead that London Transport be reorganized on a commercial basis, with a single board, consisting of business and transport experts.

If the minister appoints a chief executive of the calibre of Sir Michael Edwards or Ian MacGregor, there is a good possibility that his proposed structure would achieve an efficient low-cost and reliable public transport system in London.

You criticise the minister for not giving sufficient scope for privatisa-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Benefits from over-valued dollar

From Professor H. W. Singer

Sir, In your editorial (August 1) you are very critical and gloomy about the over-valued dollar. But surely there are other ways of looking at this.

If, as you say, the United States may have a trade deficit of \$60bn to \$100bn (and a somewhat smaller but still very sizable balance of payments deficit) is this not a good thing for the rest of us? If the US sucks in \$60bn to \$100bn more of our goods than it supplies, does it not help to promote employment and a satisfactory balance of trade position for us here? And also, with 25 per cent of US imports coming from developing countries – does it not help to promote economic development? Why should we complain?

You think that this situation is "unsustainable", but if any economy in the world can sustain it it would be the US economy; and in any case by the time the situation changes the US trade deficit may have done its good work and converted the vicious deflationary circle of depression and rising unemployment into its reverse beneficial cycle.

Now it is true as you point out that the US sucks in not only our commodities but also our capital. This means that we do not benefit from our export surplus to the US by domestic investment to the extent that we might. But it still means that we are commanding claims against the US economy for those future years which you fear so much, when the US will no longer supply us with ready-made dollars through its trade deficit. Moreover as you yourself say the "money is sent to the United States as a haven from political risk".

Can you blame the US for that? Would lower interest rates cure this situation? I think the more likely scenario is that the capital flows to the US would occur for political reasons even if the trade deficit did

not exist – would this not be an incomparably worse situation when we would get the worst of both worlds?

Long live the US trade deficit! Yours faithfully, H. W. SINGER, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton, August 2.

From Sir Alan Neale

Sir, Your leader on the overvalued dollar (August 1) shows no awareness that the conditions you criticize are an inescapable consequence of the monetarist doctrines which in other contexts you support.

As you say, economic logic would expect a country with a huge current account deficit to have a weak currency. Then with floating exchange rates its exports will be cheap in world markets and its imports dear in the home market; and the system will adjust towards a new balance.

But once all eyes are turned to the money supply, the main component of which is the lending of the country's domestic banking system, it is seen as essential to meet any sign of expansion by raising interest rates. Then in a country like the USA, where there is no danger whatever of default, vast quantities of mobile international funds are moved to take advantage of the interest rate differential.

Now the country with the weak current account goes, as you say, to the top of the currency league. Instead of setting in train an adjustment process, it imports other people's money and further restricts its own economic activity and employment. But this is monetarism: the surprise is that you should be surprised.

Yours faithfully, ALAN NEALE, 55 Swains Lane, N6.

Parents and Pill

From Mrs Birgit Carolin

Sir, I have been following with interest the case brought against the West Norfolk and Wisbech Health Authority by Mrs Victoria Gillick concerning the provision of contraceptive advice to girls under 16.

Having three daughters myself, I partly understand her feelings, but am relieved she lost her case. Surely her fears for her own daughters are groundless, since no doctor would prescribe contraceptives without her girls' specific request, which, in view of their firm Catholic upbringing, seems highly unlikely.

Girls lacking such guidance and control, however, have a right, it seems to me, to the confidential counsel and advice of a doctor, whose concern is not only for the young girl, but also for her unwanted child. The present legal situation seems to reflect our society's deep ambivalence towards sexual experience amongst the young. Perhaps the time has come to review the law.

A girl under 16 is, apparently, regarded as a passive recipient rather than an active participant in the act of intercourse. If this were so, which I question, the law, as it now stands, offers her poor protection. In practice, without the evidence of conception, it is virtually unworkable and, even then, or in the extreme case of rape, very rarely invoked by her parents, however concerned they may be for her moral and physical welfare.

As parents we recognise that our sons and daughters must, one day, take full responsibility for them-

selves, in sexual as in all other aspects of their lives. Independence of thought and action, supported by adults, must necessarily involve the loosening of parental bonds.

I do not encourage or condone promiscuity; I am in favour of responsible parenthood. Without abdicating my own responsibility as a parent, I am glad to know that anyone's daughter, including my own, has a recognised right to contraceptive advice, in confidence, under the NHS. But I should like to see the law revised to take into account the growing autonomy of young people in the important area of sex.

Yours sincerely, BIRGIT CAROLIN, 37 Blackheath Park, SE3.

From Mrs Pat King

Sir, It is amazing that parents may now exempt their children from corporal punishment in schools but may have no power in the much larger issue about contraceptives being prescribed for their under-aged daughters. Surely someone under 16 is either a child or not a child.

Perhaps if there were a little more punishment and moral teaching in schools and a little less sex education there would be less need for contraceptives for girls and boys under 16.

Yours faithfully, PAT KING, 26B Clifton Road, Tottenham, London, N15, July 30.

Night time 'nuisance'

From Mr W. John Parkman

Sir, The query by Mr Maslen, National Farmers' Union (July 26), as to how long Mr Bertram has been living next to farmland would seem to be of much less relevance in the light of the ITV programme, *Against the Grain* (July 26) which referred to "our changing countryside, thanks to subsidies being given to farmers for foodstuffs we do not want".

Whilst Mr Maslen's corollary of a disturbance "for a very few hours per year" is valid, a more prevalent and "noisy" nuisance than night farming is the use of the automatic explosive gas gun aimed at preventing birds attacking crops. The resultant detonations from dawn to dusk over periods of approximately three weeks total many thousands and with two or three guns in operation the intervals between explosions are often reduced to seconds.

If such devices were effective the

community generally would be more inclined to agree with Mr Maslen's comment that "such spells of seasonal disturbances are an essential accompaniment of the peace and beauty which reigns during the rest of the year".

Sadly, however, this is not the case, as these contrivances hold no fear for our feathered friends, who ignore the blasts. The more timid can be observed rising a few feet into the air with each explosion and dropping back down to resume their feeding.

Surely in this day and age of advanced scientific research and high technology the National Farmers' Union is able to help devise an economical and effective deterrent to aid troubled members protect their crops.

I am, Sir, yours truly, W. JOHN PARKMAN, Hyde Orchard, Weston-under-Penyard, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, July 27.

Some boroughs may even pay more on a net basis, since neither Westminster nor the City of London, who jointly enjoy 28 per cent of London's rate base, receive any rate-support grant and could not, therefore, have their rate-support grant reduced. Presumably, their share will have to be absorbed by the other 30 boroughs, unless a special tax is levied on Westminster and the City of London.

Finally, we will need to know more about the minister's views on subsidy and fare levels. Given time, progress on reducing overmanning and fraud losses would enable a reasonably priced London Transport service to be operated without subsidies substantially in excess of those recommended by the Government in its 1983 Transport Act. However, if London Transport's existing revenue fares subsidy was reduced suddenly from the current £210m to the £110m recommended by the Transport Act, then fares would have to be increased by at least 30 per cent. Yours faithfully, CYRIL TAYLOR, Members' Lobby, Greater London Council, The County Hall, SE1, July 27.

Pain and anger of Armenians

From Mr D. M. Thomas

Sir, No one who has talked with peaceable Armenians, and who has read Armenian poetry, could imagine that the pain and anger over the massacres of 1915 need to be cultivated by an alien power, as Roger Scruton suggests (July 26).

Likewise, I have heard too many speak, with still-living sorrow, of their families, all but wiped out two generations ago for me to doubt that something terrible took place. Whether half a million, or a million, or a million and a half, were killed is academic, like the exact number of Jews led into the gas chambers.

If the modern generation of Germans said to the Jews, in effect, "It never happened, or if it did it has been greatly exaggerated, and in any case is none of our business" – one can imagine the feelings of Jews.

The Armenians suffer from an unacknowledged genocide: that is one crucial reason why the events of 1915 – so far, far away from Mr Scruton's *Salisbury Review* – are only a step away from every Armenian.

Chillingly *The Times* article verified Hitler's sardonic remark when he first mooted the final solution: "Who now remembers the Armenians?"

It seems to me, as an outsider, that if only the Turks could say: "It happened, and we're sorry", the anger of moderate Armenians would be eased, and their few extremists would have no cover for their continuing the cycle of barbarity. Mr Scruton's article, on the other hand, can only entrench bitterness, not promote reconciliation.

Yours etc, D. M. THOMAS, 10 Greyfriars Avenue, Hereford, July 26.

Going to the zoo

From Sir Richard Way

Sir, Your editorial, "Going to the Zoo" (July 23) deals in a generally fair way with a topical and important question. But in certain respects it creates an impression about the London Zoo and Whipsnade which, in my view as a member of the council of only five years and therefore not particularly defensive about the past, does them less than justice.

The two zoos are indeed "institutions of research and conservation" and London can pride itself on its leading position in both respects. It would be an outrage, however, to set out to conserve exotic species, or indeed to be responsible for any animals, without being able to provide first-class veterinary and other services. It is not, by definition, a narrowly commercial operation and this is demonstrated by the fact that every other comparable zoo in the world has long been either subsidised or wholly maintained from public funds.

As you say, the London Zoo "has had to be bailed out by the state more than once"; in its 157 years of existence, twice to be precise (both occasions in the 1960s) if one excepts the current situation on which discussions are proceeding with the Government.

Your remark that the Zoo "displays ignorance", tempered by your recognition of "some signs of unbending in the last year or two", is certainly misleading and a little unfair. In the five years since I have been on its council the question of how to attract more visitors has been constantly discussed. The fact that we have so far failed may possibly indicate a lack of imagination, but it is certainly not due to any failure to recognise the crucial importance of this objective.

It is not, as you suggest, the society's charter which restricts our freedom on "the showbusiness side" but the fact that, in London, we operate wholly within a royal park and are (rightly in my view) much more inhibited in the measures we can adopt to attract customers than we should be elsewhere.

Finally, I wonder whether, before alleging that the society is too secretive, you glanced at the annual report. It is an absolute mine of information of all sorts.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD WAY, Monroe Farm, Shaldon, Alton, Hampshire.

Nameless JPs

From Mr Peter Embrey

Sir, Jurors are named in open court, not once but twice: when selected, and when sworn.

Since this is contrary to what Mr Hill (July 19) implies, can any reader suggest a reason for magistrates being treated differently?

Yours faithfully, PETER EMBREY, 19 Edith Road, Barons Court, W14.

Well held, sir

From Mr W. J. B. Salisbury

Sir, One treasured and most welcome incident in the recent Test match was not mentioned by your Cricket Correspondent (report, August 2). Randall held a catch at mid-on, but he didn't throw the ball high into the air and rush to join his teammates, as now seems to be the fashion. He simply put it in his pocket.

In these days such agreeable behaviour should be encouraged.

Yours faithfully, W. J. B. SALISBURY, Carden, Back Lane, Draycott, Cheddar, Somerset, Avon, August 2.

A SPECIAL REPORT

Arab aviation



Business as usual for the airline which lived to fly again another day. Right: a Middle East Airlines' Boeing 707 taking off from its Beirut base. Left: the burned-out wreckage of another MEA Boeing - one of 16 destroyed at Beirut over the past seven years.

Front line airport

Robert Fisk reports first-hand on the airline which war could not ground

Middle East Airlines seems to treat shellfire like occasional showers of rain. When Beirut Airport comes under artillery or missile attack - as it did again last month - the runways are temporarily closed, the airport staff take shelter in the terminals and watch to see whether their rather elderly Boeing 707s and 720s escape shrapnel. Incredibly, they usually do.

If this is "business as usual", the mentality is sometimes taken to extreme lengths. I recall flying into Beirut during the civil war in 1976 on an MEA flight from Amman. There were only five passengers on the Boeing 707 and the in-flight catering facilities had long ago been suspended because of the fighting in Beirut. As a substitute, the stewardess presented me before landing with a large bottle of whisky. "Compliments of MEA", she said with a smile. "You're going to need it". She was right. Shells started landing round the airport while I was clearing immigration and there was a corpse lying spreadeagled on the pavement beside the airport car park. Welcome to Lebanon.

MEA crews can entertain you with a library of hair-raising stories, of planes taking off under rocket fire and of landing in Europe with bullet holes in the tail. The company likes to talk about the loyalty of its staff and it is true that you could fly on an MEA plane at the most terrible moments of Lebanon's long war and find a crew of Christian Maronites, Sunni and Shia Muslims, Druzes and Armenians all working happily together.

It is also true that MEA is one of the few industries in Lebanon that has provided permanent employment in time of war.

In 1981 alone, MEA reported a loss of more than £10m and expressed the hope of better days to come. A year later, however, Israel's invasion of Lebanon had turned the airport into a front line. The sight of two MEA Boeings burning on the tarmac was one of the war's most depressing symbols for the airline staff. When the airport reopened in the autumn, President Amin Gemayel greeted the first jet to land: the airline

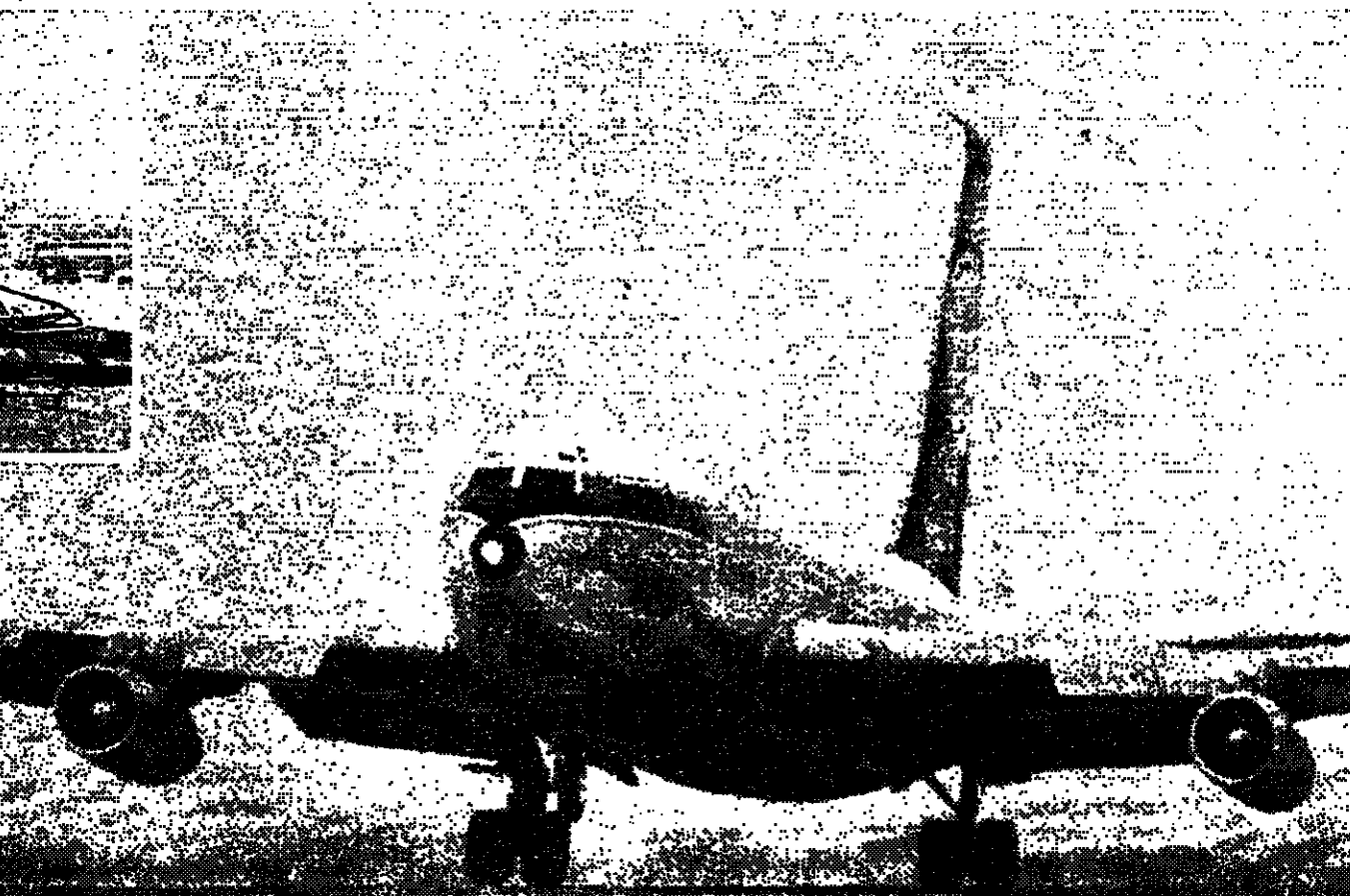
has become intimately bound up with the country's regular recoveries of self-confidence.

Some of the planes are beginning to look rather old and the company's much publicized decision to acquire the A310 Airbus has yet to be fulfilled. Three 747s run MEA's new route to New York but the planes are white elephants. Not long ago, the company was flying them out on the short-haul Cairo route so that they could refuel in Egypt where fuel costs are lower than Lebanon.

But there is not much that MEA cannot do for its passengers. The wine is free in all classes and friendly station managers often upgrade regular travellers from economy to first class. Never ask why journalists prefer the airline. After risking their lives to film the hotel battles in 1976, one American television crew was so desperate to get their material out of Lebanon that they asked MEA for an entire airliner. The got a 747, fully crewed, in just under half an hour. The cost was catastrophic: so was the film, after technicians in London accidentally developed it in the wrong chemical and destroyed every frame.

The airline lost one plane over Saudi Arabia in 1976 - apparently blown up by a bomb - that killed more than 80 passengers and crew. Staff have died in Lebanon's series of wars over the past eight years: gunmen took two of them from the airport and murdered them in 1976; a stewardess was killed by a shell as she waited to leave for a flight the same year. A pilot lost a leg while fighting in the Phalangist militia.

But MEA can probably survive anything these days. Its new executive office building at Beirut airport contains four floors above ground and four below. The company's vice president, who says the underground accommodation was built purely because of height restrictions, believes he can shelter, feed and provide beds for 2,000 people to live beneath the earth for three months at a time. It may be a pessimistic way of planning for the future but MEA has a habit of living to fly again another day.



The barrier to an airline dream

Despite the worldwide recession, and regional economic stresses produced by the Iraq-Iran war, the invasion of Lebanon, and a sharp fall in the production and price of oil, the Arab nations are still enthusiastic about aviation, both civil and military.

The vestiges of the Middle East, its inhospitable terrain, and the lack of surface links, mean that people and goods must fly in support of the ambitious modernization programmes embarked on in the last decade. In the middle 1970s, the 17 Arab airlines carried only 1½ per cent of the world's traffic, but the figure has risen to around 7 per cent and the trend shows no sign of halting.

All of the big aircraft manufacturers see the Arab airline world as one of their most promising markets during the rest of this decade, and according to McDonnell Douglas figures, traffic between Europe and the Middle East will grow by an average of 7 per cent a year between now and 1990,

and traffic within the Middle East by 10.3 per cent annually during the same period. Between them, the Arab airlines have about 300 jet airliners, more and more of them wide-bodied, and they carry 25 million passengers and more than 30,000 tonnes of freight a year to earn £4,300m. They have, however, a long way to go before they can capitalize fully on the key geographical position of their region in the world's air network. At present, an inordinately large proportion of the traffic to and through the region is carried by non-Arab airlines, and the Arab airlines themselves are in intense and wasteful competition with each other, particularly on routes to North America and the Far East.

The dream of an Arab regional airline along the lines of Scandinavian Airlines System, which incorporates Sweden, Norway and Denmark, or Air Afrique, which draws together nine states in Africa, with engineering carried out jointly, in the manner of the European KSSU and ATLAS groups, has long been pursued by a few of the more far-sighted leaders, but has failed to materialize mainly because of the strength of nationalism in the area.

The idealists want to see routes between the countries of the various members of the Arab Air Carriers Organization (AACO) designated as domestic services within the bilateral agreements. But little has been accomplished in this area, also because of nationalism. Some progress towards unification is being made, however, notably in the stamping out of fare and cargo rate discounting among AACO members (and in the launching of a joint attack on this practice against foreign carriers flying through the region) and in the maintenance of some aircraft.

Through the Arab Technical Consortium, Middle East Airlines is to carry out all 747 overhauls; Kuwait Airways will work on all European Airbus A310s; and Saudia will look after all TriStars. An effort is to be made to establish training standards among AACO members in the major technical disciplines, and to standardize pilot-training courses. But a plan for a central training academy has been dropped as being too unwieldy, and another for a central, computer-based reservations system is considered unworkable because of the disparate nature of the AACO airlines, and the differing nature of their operations.

Considering that many of them started only after the Second World War, and then relied heavily for several decades on expatriate expertise for the running of their corporate and day-to-day operations, the Arab airlines have done well to reach the point at which they stand today. The 1970s saw them indulging in an enormous spending boom on new planes, and the technology with which to back them up: the computers, the flight simulators, engineering workshops, and training schools.

Almost without exception,

they relied heavily on government resources culled from the petroleum bonanza to carry them through this period. It is doubtful whether, by the hard accounting criteria applied to European and US airlines, many of them are profitable, but then most are expected by their governments to operate certain services at highly-un-economic fares, particularly at the time of the Haj, when whole populations flock to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

The goal of the Arab airlines continues to be "Arabization", but the day when they can dispense with all expatriates and run their own companies with locally produced technical talent still appears to be a long way off and was put back further by the big expansion of the 1970s.

One estimate is that despite intensive training schemes, today almost 50 per cent of pilots within the Arab airlines, and 35 per cent of engineers are expatriates. Apart from national pride, there is a strong incentive to replace expatriates with locals on financial grounds, as it is reckoned that it costs five times as much to employ an outside pilot as it does an Arab.

In the defence sector, spending on military aviation and its associated hardware continues at a high rate among the Arab nations as they attempt to modernize their often-outdated inventories against an unsettled political background.

Aircraft, missiles, and systems, continue to be bought from the Eastern bloc, particularly by Libya, Iraq, and Syria. Purchases from the West, especially the US, Britain and France, range from the small and very simple (Balrair's defence force consists of just five helicopters and six fighters) to the large and highly-sophisticated.

The regional leader in this latter category is Saudi Arabia which has invested, and continues to invest, thousands of millions of pounds in equipping the Royal Saudi Air Force with the sort of weaponry and back-up systems which the air forces of many Western countries would envy. Arabization in this sector has a low priority, and the Saudis have long-term contracts covering maintenance, support and training with a number of aerospace manufacturers from the West, among them Northrop and McDonnell Douglas of the US, and British Aerospace.

The jewel in the crown of the Saudi military aviation inventory is undoubtedly a fleet of

Continued on page 14

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THE CARRIERS

A match now for any competitor

From being a disparate group of companies content to go their own ways only a decade ago, the Arab airlines are now gradually becoming a coherent force with a growing voice in the councils of world-wide bodies such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Through the introduction of fleets of modern jet airliners, by replacing their reliance on western airlines' computers with their own systems, and with the building and equipping of new high-tech maintenance bases, the airlines of the region can today match most of their competitors in their flight operations.

But commercial success is inhibited by the tight control exercised by their governments, particularly in fares. Recently, the airlines decided through their own association to raise fares by 3 per cent but were told by the Arab Civil Aviation Council, composed of directors of civil aviation in the Arab world, that they were to be frozen.

Most of the airlines won that particular battle after explaining to their respective governments the economic need for an increase, but there are many other cases where commercial

common sense is overruled by national whim. Governments of some Arab countries have given traffic rights to foreign airlines with no consideration to the negotiation of reciprocal rights. Arab airlines have also been critical of their governments for not giving them sufficient support at political level when they have tried to break into new markets abroad.

Where they have control over their own affairs, the Arab airlines are now producing levels of agreement which would have been unusual only a few years ago. They claim, for example, that the fight against discounting fares within their own ranks is now being seriously joined.

The fastest-growing airline in the Arab world has been Saudia, the Saudi Arabian national carrier. At the most recent count it had 22,500 employees and a fleet which included 11 Boeing 747s, 17 Lockheed TriStars, 19 Boeing 737s, nine McDonnell Douglas DC8s, an assortment of smaller executive aircraft, and 11 of the latest version of the 300-seat European A300 Airbus, the series 600, on order.

Saudia is a classic example of the rapid progress which has been made by so many Arab airlines since the end of the

Second World War, having been established in 1945 with one DC3 Dakota, presented by the United States.

Middle East Airlines illustrates the flexible nature of the Arab world operators in an area where communications have been frequently disrupted by wars and political crises. Based in Beirut, MEA has lost a number of its aircraft on at least three occasions in the past 10

years because of fighting. The worst occasion was last summer, when Israelis and Palestinians fought pitched battles around Beirut airport.

It then lost buildings and equipment as well as aircraft, but as in previous crises, it continued operating some services from a base abroad. Flights out of Beirut resumed almost as soon as the fighting ended, and the airline now lists

a staff of 5,400 and a fleet consisting of two 747s, 18 707s, and five Airbus A310s on order.

Gulf Air is a successful example of the regionalism for which many of the Arab carriers have strived but which has proved elusive. The joint airline of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates - it was established in its present form in 1971 - after a long association with BOAC. Its

main operating base is Bahrain international airport. It has 3,000 employees and its fleet includes a 747, eight TriStars, and nine 737s.

A further example of successful cooperation was the agreement between Alia - Royal Jordanian Airlines and Syrianair to operate a joint service between the Middle East and New York. Syrianair, with 2,800 employees, operates two

747s, three 727s, and a number of Soviet-made aircraft, while Alia, with 4,900 staff, has three 747s, five TriStars, a 707, and six 727s.

Relations within AACO are complicated by the fact that some members are large, international airlines while others are small domestic companies (Egyptair, one of the largest, remains suspended from AACO because of the Camp David agreement, so lessening the scope for technical collaboration).

One area in which the AACO airlines would like to see improvement is air traffic control. A regional air traffic conference is now being ar-

With their modern fleets and sophisticated service, the airlines of the Arab world can compete today with their western rivals. Left: One of Alia's five new TriStar-500s, and old-fashioned, oriental courtesy at 40,000 feet.

anged - there has not been one since the mid-1960s - but hopes that airlines will be able to fly more direct and economical courses must remain slim until the entire region becomes less politically volatile.

Arthur Reed

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AIRPORTS

A terminal fit for a king

The Middle East has long been one of the great aviation staging points at which airlines refuelled their aircraft and refreshed their passengers on the long routes between Europe and the Far East and Australasia. But most of its airports verged on the primitive, by Western standards, until the petrodollar boom of the early 1970s.

Since then there has been a vast expenditure on airports in the Arab world, both in updating existing facilities, and in constructing new ones on desert sites. What was primitive has, in many cases, become grandiose, and levels of traffic which will not be attained for generations have been handled.

Designing, managing, building, and equipping these airports has necessitated a huge influx of experience from outside. Britain, the United States, France and West Germany are prominent among countries which have supplied technical and commercial experts, while the labour to build the runways, passenger terminals and other buildings, and to lay the roads connecting the airports with the cities they serve, has also been flown in from abroad, most notably from the Far East and Pakistan.

Bahrain, one of the airports heavily used in transit by non-Arab airlines and an important centre for the Arab airlines (which between them carry over 25 million passengers a year) has gained a reputation for being one of the most modern and efficient airports in the Middle East.

Seeb and Salalah, the two principal airports in Oman, are being enlarged and updated, and Cairo International has been extended to deal with up to five million passengers a year. Abu Dhabi, another important staging point for long-distance travel, has a new airport designed to handle three million passengers a year at first, and 10 million by the turn of the century. The old airport in Abu Dhabi has undergone extensive modernization.

Dubai plans to double the size of its international airport, with a new arrival terminal costing £250m. Sharjah's new airport, costing £330m, has been largely designed by the ruler Sheikh Sultan.

Kuwait has a new three storey terminal building designed to handle 2.2m passengers a year, and plans for a second terminal are in hand. The recently built Queen Alia International Airport, Jordan, will have a capacity for 2.5m passengers annually by the middle 1980s, and for up to eight million by the end of this century.

The "showcase" development of the area is the King Abdulaziz International Airport at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, although the recently-completed King Khalid International Airport at Riyadh, in the same kingdom is vying with it. A third big new airport, serving the eastern province of Saudi Arabia, is due to open near

Dammam and Dhahran in the late 1980s.

The King Abdulaziz took six years from 1976 to build. The old Jeddah airport was not only outdated but was being rapidly encroached upon by urban development. Its successor is 15 miles from the centre of the city, with which it is linked by a new motorway, and stands on a desert site covering 40.5 square miles. At the peak of construction, 11,000 workers from 35 countries were employed on the site. They laid two main runways, one of 12,450ft, the other 10,890ft, and erected four terminals - (one for use by Saudia, the national airline, another by foreign airlines), another for Haj passengers, and lastly a private one for the Saudi royal family and their guests.

Other buildings included maintenance hangars, and air-cargo terminal, a food service centre, control tower, and a desalination plant for processing water from the Red Sea near by. A nursery was established to produce 15,000 plants each year as part of a soil-stabilization programme. More than 70,000 trees and plants have already been planted.

One of the biggest buildings can hold 50,000 pilgrims at one time under its fibreglass roof

The Saudis consider it their duty as Muslims to help pilgrims making the Haj, and to this end the Haj terminal at the King Abdulaziz is one of the biggest buildings in the world. It can accommodate up to 50,000 pilgrims at one time under its roof, which is made of fibreglass, and gives the impression of a series of desert tents.

The royal terminal is also an example of striking design. Its roof is covered with copper, and its exterior walls faced with white marble from quarries in Greece. Internally, its halls are magnificently furnished, the main feature being a reception pavilion accommodating 300. Other facilities include conference rooms, a press room, and a medical suite. Outside there is a parade ground where guards of honour receive distinguished guests. The whole terminal stands in an oasis-like setting, with palm trees and pools.

Operational testing of Riyadh's King Khaled airport, is to begin this month and the opening is planned for November. A workforce of 9,000 is being assembled. Like its counterpart at Jeddah, the King Khaled has been built in the desert to replace an old airport close to the city. It has four terminals, a royal pavilion, two runways, under-cover parking for 7,700 cars and a community project where most of its workers will live, including four schools, commercial, medical, and government offices, a mosque, and recreational facilities.

AR

THE PILGRIMAGE

Flying in the faithful

Jeddah's \$1,500m King Abdulaziz airport was hailed as the world's largest when it opened in January 1981. It is a distinction it will lose when Riyadh's new international airport, even larger in area, opens in October.

More significant than the size of Jeddah's airport is its architecturally astonishing Hajj terminal. For Jeddah is the principal entry point for millions of Muslim pilgrims who make their way each year to Mecca, 45 miles to the east.

The number of Hajj visitors has grown steadily since the advent of mass air transportation. In 1926, after Mecca was captured by Ibn Saud's forces, 100,000 pilgrims came to the city. Since then it has been the role of the ruling al-Saud dynasty to guard the holy places of Islam in the kingdom and accommodate Muslim pilgrims from all over the world.

In September the annual pilgrimage and what in effect is Saudi Arabia's annual tourism season will start again. It will be a busy time for airlines which

will bring the faithful from the Arab world, South-East Asia, the Indian sub-continent and other areas of Muslim population. The Saudi Arabian national airline, Saudia, will alone transport about 100,000 of the nearly two million visitors expected.

The special Hajj terminal has been built to take the strain of this immense and sudden influx of visitors without disrupting normal airport activity. The terminal could be described as a massive transit lounge. Yet it is far more.

The US architects, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill were given a unique brief by the new airport's prime contractor, West Germany's Hochtief, to conceive a building able to accommodate such a surge of visitors for a limited period of the year. The result is an air-conditioned marble structure whose most striking feature is its roof sections in parasol shape somewhat similar to beduin tents.

The roofs are made of Teflon-

coated glass fibre developed by Owens Corning. The Teflon is designed to keep out moisture and extend the life of the parasols.

The roofs allow in light but deflect the desert's heat. Inside the structure the effect is almost one of looking at a very amicable sky. Air is circulated at 20 miles an hour through the open sided terminal and through the circular openings of the roofs.

The terminal comprises two units, linked by a landscaped mall. There are 20 passenger gates. Arriving pilgrims are processed through immigration, customs and baggage collection before moving into the main area.

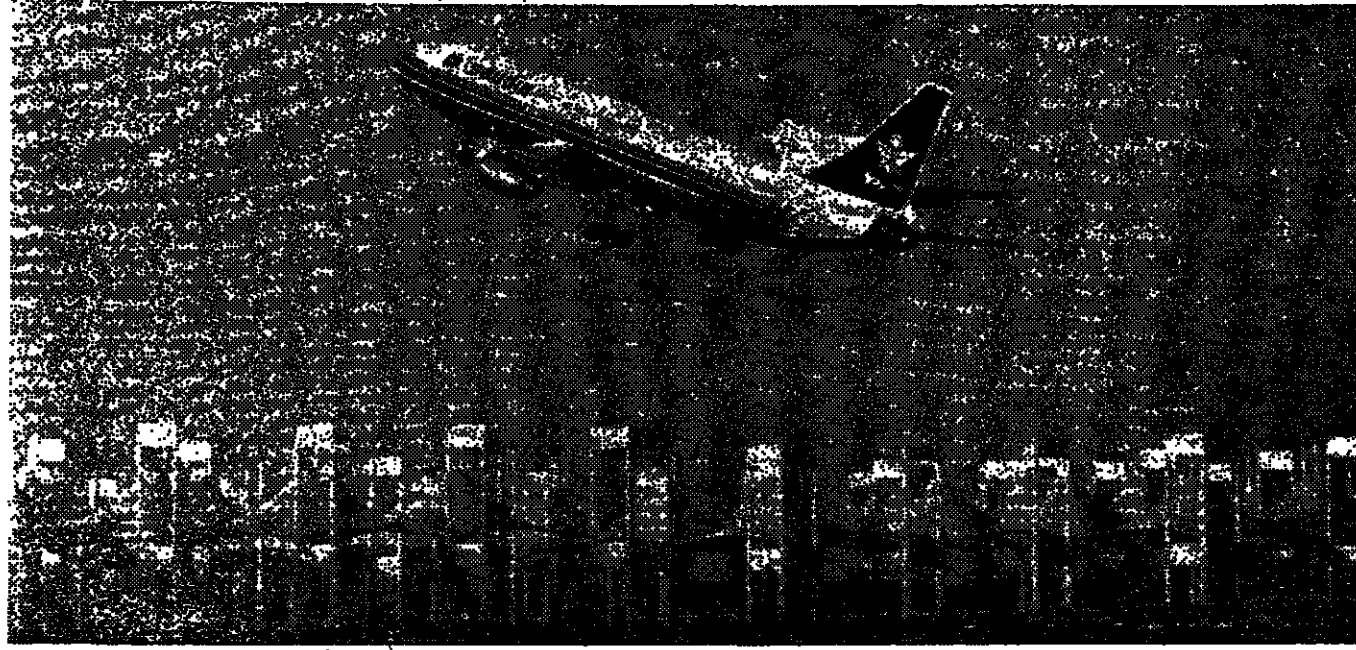
The terminal and its supporting communications and power infrastructure is designed to handle 5,000 passengers an hour. Original plans estimated that between 80,000 and 100,000 people during the Hajj would stay in the terminal area for 24 hours or more.

The design allows for sleeping and rest areas, mosques, restaurants, souks and banks as well as information offices over a 105 acre complex which is a self contained area within Jeddah airport.

The fact that the Hajj terminal is used for little more than six weeks of the year by any volume of passengers is of little consequence to the Saudi authorities who wish to show their commitment to the kingdom's role as guardian of the holy places and also demonstrate hospitality to pilgrims whose journey to Mecca is the greatest spiritual experience of their lives.

The Hajj terminal though based on high technology developed in the non-Muslim world nevertheless reflects a tranquil splendour that people of all denominations could agree is a suitable venue from which to begin, or end, such a memorable journey.

Robert Bailey
Middle East Economic Digest



Flying over the 'tents': the new Hajj terminal at Jeddah airport was inspired by the concept of a beduin encampment.

Around 100 students, teachers, lecturers and social workers will be taking a package holiday in Iraq this year costing \$560 which includes a flight to Amman in Jordan, and then overland through Syria and Turkey to Iraq.

Perhaps better known for its war-stricken deserts than for its beaches, Iraq's attractions lie in its ancient historical centres like Hatra City, Nineveh and Babylon.

A travel agent's eyes may not sparkle when holidays to the

Gulf are mentioned yet it is an area that many feel has potential. Gulf Air in a recent study on aviation in the area estimated that passenger traffic to and from the Gulf will grow by 7.9 per cent annually between 1983 and 1990, partly because of tourism. The area is rich in historical interest and

has many miles of sandy beaches (sadly many are now covered in oil).

Tourism to the Gulf area is not nearly as highly developed as it is to Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, because apart from the greater attractions of those places, airlines do

not offer the range of promotional fares necessary for reasonably priced holidays.

Airlines, however, are quick to retort that if they were approached with guaranteed seat requests of about 500 a season they would be willing to introduce such schemes. A spokesman for British Airways said that most of the travellers to the region are business travellers and they do not require such a fare spread.

Continued on page 14

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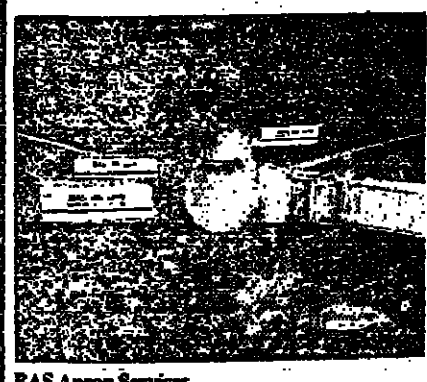
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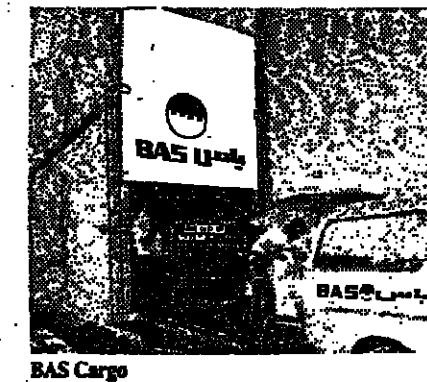
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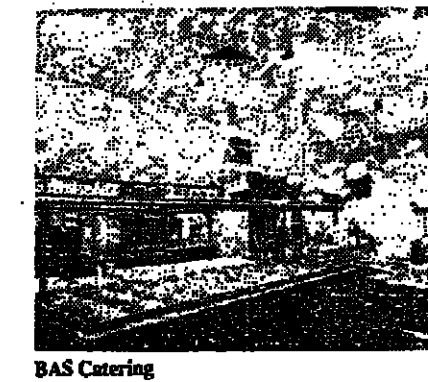
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ECONOMICS

Pulling in the passengers

As the Middle East has grown in world economic importance so has the scope and scale of the region's airline operations. This can be seen in the now familiar sight of Arab wide-bodied jets at Heathrow and other major international airports.

There is, of course, an element of prestige involved but within countries of the area air travel tends to be a necessity rather than a luxury in order to connect cities and communities across often vast tracts of inhospitable terrain. Inevitably a heavy element of subsidy is needed to provide such services. But the oil-boom years have provided the income to sustain the development of extensive internal, intra-regional and international networks.

The growth pattern in traffic that has been generated is in sharp contrast to the more dismal air transportation statistics from other parts of the world. While political instability, and a brake on spending as a result of the fall in oil prices, can be expected to slow the more ambitious plans of Arab airlines passenger trends are still optimistic. Recent International Air Transport Association figures show, for example, that Middle-East-Far East traffic increased 22 per cent last year which was the biggest jump recorded on any international route network. Planning for growth and keeping solvent when many of

the world's airlines, seem to live on the brink of bankruptcy is not easy. Though most Arab airlines have remained relatively unscathed from a biting world recession none is immune from the economics of modern airline management.

There are 15 Arab airlines including Air Algerie, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, South Yemen's Alyemda, Egyptair, Iraqi Airways, Gulf Air, Kuwait Airways, Royal Air Maroc, Libyan Arab Airlines, Middle East Airlines, Saudia, Sudan Airways, Syrian Arab Airlines, Tunis Air and North Yemen's Yemenia. Together they operate some 264 jet aircraft and employ 100,000 people. In 1981 they are estimated to have carried 26 million passengers and 375,000 tons of cargo.

Most of the Arab airlines major growth has occurred in the last 10 years. Saudi Arabian Airlines has in that time become the 16th largest IATA member in terms of passengers carried - 10 million - in 1982 and tenth in terms of its fleet.

From a post-war start with three DC3 (Dakota) aircraft, Saudia has become the biggest airline in the Middle East. Its present and planned fleet consists of 80 aircraft.

One aim of the present Saudi Arabian five-year development plan is said to be to achieve a financial balance in current domestic service operations. Two years ago internal fares were increased 70 per cent. It was the first increase in 10



The world's biggest annual airlift. Six of the two million Muslim pilgrims who travel to Mecca each year praying at Jeddah's \$1,500m King Abdulaziz airport.

years. How long before another hike will be sanctioned remains to be seen.

Meanwhile Saudia is reportedly planning further investment in communications facilities, training and support services to help it remain viable in the more austere years ahead.

Saudia is responsible to its own national interest. Gulf Air on the other hand has to serve four states the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. Nevertheless it is a successful airline second only to Saudia and in less than a decade its turnover has grown from \$8m to \$600m. Last year the airline carried two million passengers. Results have steadily improved following a decrease in employment of

expatriate flight crew. Some 99 of Gulf Air's pilots and first officers are now Arab as well as 90 per cent of station staff.

Away from the Gulf, Lebanon's Middle East Airlines has no trouble finding local staff rather in generating enough business to support its 5,000 personnel. MEA, after Egyptair which was founded in 1932, is the second oldest airline in the region.

MEA is highly experienced, professional but more than others appreciates the need for regional cooperation on airline matters. At a conference of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation in March held in Abu Dhabi, the secretary-general, Salim Salam, who is also MEA's chairman, commented that Arab airlines could reduce their overheads by a regional division of labour. He envisaged Boeing 747's being serviced in Beirut, Airbus A310's in Kuwait, Lockheed TriStars in Saudi Arabia and avionics maintenance being carried out by MEA and Alia.

Apart from keeping flying one of the main challenges to profitable airline operations is what Salam and others chose to call "illegal discounting" on tickets of between 25-60 per cent. What is rarely explained is how such tickets can be sold at all if not provided by the airlines in the first place.

Not everybody wants to fly from Abu Dhabi to London via Sofia but it seems unlikely that airlines will be willing for any extended period to fly less than half full if seats can be filled at less than nominal price. Few passengers will complain but airline accountancy is thrown into chaos by discounting.

Arab airlines have reached an early maturity. But they face increasing costs for the purchase of a new generation of fuel-efficient aircraft and for Arabising workforces. In the next few years consolidation rather than prestige therefore is likely to be the keynote in planning procedures.

Robert Bailey

Five star travel

Continued from page 13

British Airways used to operate packages to Sharjah and Khor Fakkan through Sovereign holidays but gave up two years ago because the market was not ready for it and so BA now concentrates on Egypt which it says has been a great success.

British Caledonian and Hilton Hotels have teamed up to offer packages, but the numbers involved are only about 300 per year. Most leisure travel in the Gulf is intra-Gulf. Expatriates and locals flock to the pretty coastal areas such as Eid for long weekends and official holidays.

The days when travellers slept on hotel lobby floors have now been replaced by a surfeit of hotels in most Middle East countries. Nearly all the major hotel chains have over the last 10 to 15 years opened up properties in the areas main cities. The Hilton International started the trend with a 413-room hotel in Istanbul. The group now has 14 hotels in the region with more than 4,000 rooms. Since then Sheraton, Meridien, Ramada, Marriott, Intercontinental, Holiday Inn and Gulf Hotels have opened chains of hotels giving the Middle East well over 25,000 five-star hotel rooms.

The high quality of hotels also means that charges are high and so the possibilities of negotiating package holidays based on cheap accommodation suffers. The problem is made worse by what one travel company called "the vacuum" beneath the deluxe hotel range. However the existing hotels are quite prepared to offer group deals. Holiday Inn always have some sort of bargain weekend break organised for Arabs and westerners working in the country. Hilton also offer such breaks at their hotels in Fujairah and Al-Ain in the UAE.

While holiday-makers from the UK may be few, Austria and West Germany see the Gulf as a big market for winter breaks. German operators based in Munich carry about 4,000-6,000 passengers to Sharjah in a winter season using charters from Hapag Lloyd. From Austria two companies, Meridien and Neckermann Travel, between them took about 2,000 in 1982/83 using Austrian Airline charters and charging about £650 for a week.

However one of the travel agents says that the numbers may diminish substantially this year because of scare stories in recent months about the oil slick in the Arabian Gulf.

For European airlines the Middle East has been an important market. In 1982 the

20 members of the Association of European Airlines reported a 5.2 per cent growth of passenger traffic on that sector. However little of this passenger traffic derives from holiday-makers. Organisers that operate to other parts of the Gulf and to some of the less well known parts of the Middle East are few and tend to run breaks for small groups who are more interested in "educational holidays" rather than escaping the winter rain and snow for a bit of desert basking.

Perhaps one of the most specialised of the tour operators is Serenissima Travel, the only tour operator to offer packages to Oman. Obtaining entry permits to Oman is extremely difficult and so the company can only take about 15 people at a time under the guidance of a British ex-ambassador's wife. The fact that there are no special fare structures to the country is reflected in the price of the holiday which, at just under £2,000, including 10 nights in some of Oman's finest hotels, makes it more of a tour than a package.

Another enterprising tour operator is Jasmin Tours which offers holidays to Jordan and hopes to take about 400 there this year. There are also plans to organise a Jordan/UAE joint package holiday in the coming winter season. The latter, made in conjunction with Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, would include five nights in Jordan and five nights in Sharjah for a package price of about £850. Jim Smith of Jasmin also offers holidays to Syria which he insists is one of the most relaxed places in the Middle East.

The scope exists for a growth of tourism to the Gulf, but as a spokesman for Dubai National Air Travel Agency (DNATA) asks: "Just how much tourism does the area want?" After all, the Gulf countries do not need foreign currency for the time being. The countries are also very wary of becoming like Spain and Greece and open to the less desirable influences of the West. But on a small scale holidays even to places like Saudi Arabia to see oil wells and platforms could be of interest to some people. While the Airlines and the hotels can thrive on business travel they do not feel the need to encourage tourists. Until they do, holidaymakers to the Middle East will remain loyal to the travel agents' favourites Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco.

Toby Odone

Middle East Economic Digest

An airline dream

Continued from page 11

five Boeing E3A Sentry early-warning aircraft, and 60 McDonnell Douglas F-15 Eagle fighters.

When fully operational, this formidable combination will give the kingdom early-warning coverage of her northern borders for 24 hours a day, and fast-reaction capability against intruders. The F-15s are to have their range extended with the purchase of six Boeing 707 tankers, and through the addition of "fast pack" fuel tanks.

Even though the Syrian Air Force is heavily backed by the Soviet and other Eastern-bloc air forces, and is having aircraft

lost to the Israelis over Lebanon in 1982 replaced on a one-for-one basis, no other country in the Arab world is likely to approach the advanced nature of the inventory now being installed by the Saudis. But surveys indicate that all Arab air forces have a requirement for new equipment of some type, from transport aircraft to turbo-prop trainers, from radars to cannon shells, and as is the case in the civil sector, world aerospace sees the region as potentially one of its most lucrative markets during the remainder of the 1980s.

Arthur Reed

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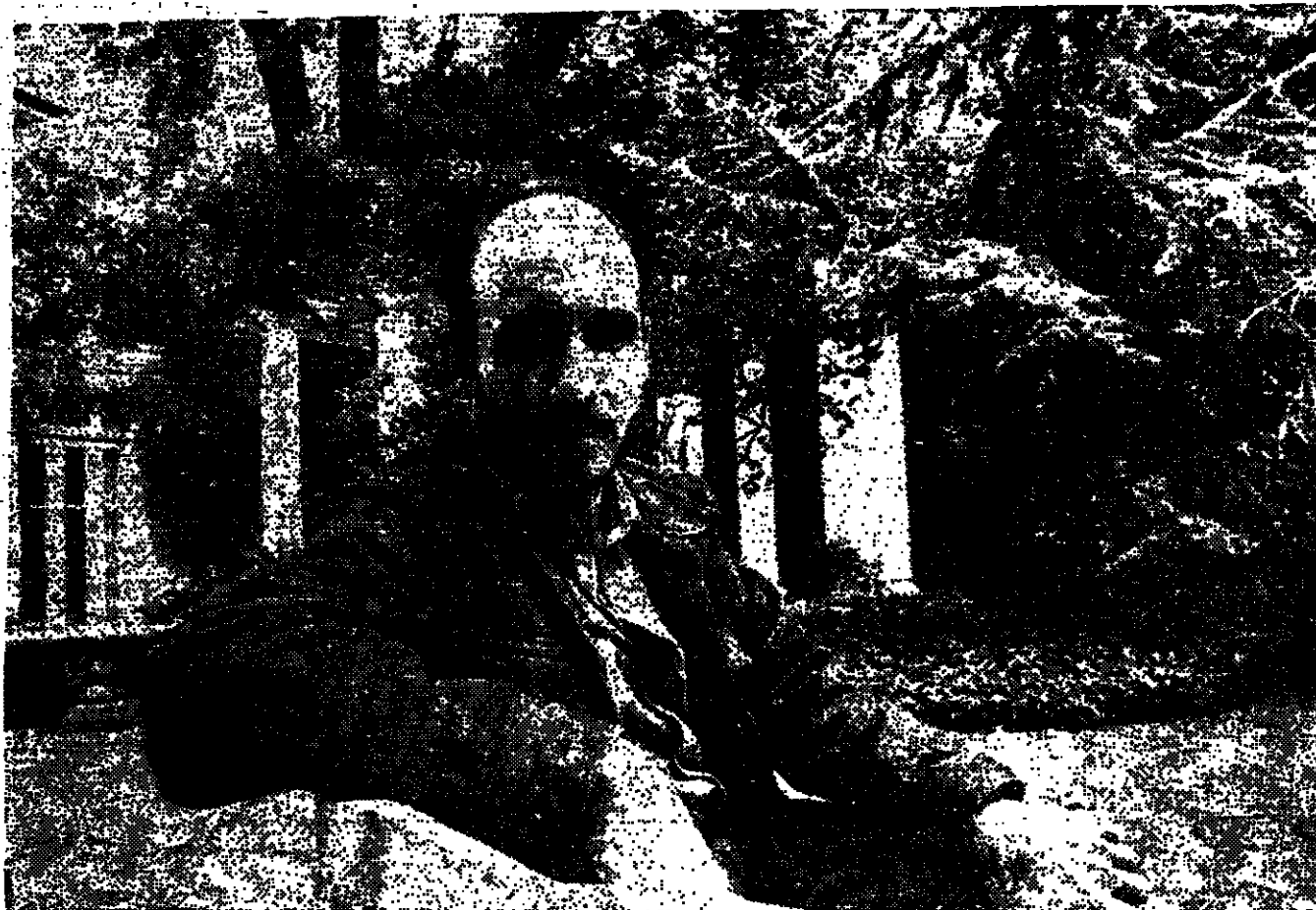
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THE ARTS

Dennis Russell Davies's reputation stands high in Europe and his native America, but he has never conducted publicly in Britain: he makes his debut at tomorrow's Prom, in a programme including Henze as well as *The Rite of Spring*. Interview by Paul Griffiths

A happy gift for seizing chances

Davies: "I just like the music"



Musical success stories are normally quick to travel these days, but when Dennis Russell Davies arrives to conduct tomorrow's Prom he will be making his first public appearance in this country, despite the fact that he has been winning golden opinions for his work in concert halls and opera houses across his native America and continental Europe for well over a decade. Quite why he should not have conducted here before is a mystery, to him as much as to anyone else. And it seems all the stranger when so far his career has been blessed with lucky opportunities that, obviously, it has taken a more-than-ordinary talent to seize and vindicate so regularly.

The luck began when he was a student at the Juilliard School in New York. "I had played some lives in a recital, and in the eyes of the administration that made me a modern music specialist. So, when Luciano Berio was forming the Juilliard Ensemble at the school in 1968, I was invited to be a pianist and assistant conductor. I'd been studying both piano and conducting."

Playing the piano is still something he likes to do, in music that is characteristically various: he has recorded sextets by Danzi and a solo piece by Keith Jarrett, *Ritual for Piano*. But while he was with the

Juilliard Ensemble conducting became his main activity. "I'm a good pianist, but I realized that I would never make an international career as one. And also I like making music with a lot of other people."

He is, indeed, a quiet man but a happily sociable musician. As music director of the Cabrillo Festival, taking place each August at Santa Cruz in California, he has brought about a cheerful meeting place for a personal choice of stars and music. Each year there is a composer-in-residence (Cage last year, Henze this), but the range is wide, from informal recitals to orchestral concerts to outdoor jamborees. It is, in Cage's language, a peculiarly "festivalistic" festival.

But Cabrillo is only a part of the Davies story, holiday in a round of engagements that includes conducting American music with the American Composers Orchestra in New York, making guest appearances with orchestras ranging from the Ensemble InterContemporain to the Berlin Philharmonic, and fulfilling the duties of General Music Director in Stuttgart, a post he has held since 1980.

Much of this work has come out of his years with the Juilliard Ensemble,

when through Berio he got to know most of the leading composers of that generation. Berio himself invited Davies to conduct his opera *Opera at Santa Fe* in 1970. "That was important. It was my first big conducting job, and also I met my wife." There was, too, the start of an association with Henze, who heard him conduct *Natascha Ungeheuer* with the Juilliard Ensemble.

"He seemed pleased, and he said he'd like to work with me again. I didn't think anything of it, but about a year later he rang me and asked if I would conduct some new productions he was going to do in Germany. And that was how I came to Stuttgart. First we did Henze's *Boulevard Solitude*, then *We Come to the River*, and then *Die Zaubertöne*, still with Henze producing. That *Zaubertöne* was in 1978. Silvio Varviso was leaving and they asked me if I would take the job."

Taking the Stuttgart post meant leaving his first regular position, with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra in Minnesota, where he had been music director since 1972. "That was - I think it still is - the only full-time professional chamber orchestra in the United States, and so I immediately advertised it as being the best. I didn't

want to do the sort of programmes that Neville Martinson had done so well with the orchestra, concentrating on seventeenth and eighteenth-century music. Instead I wanted to do a lot of modern music, but mixed with classical pieces. So we would have, say, the Carter Double Concerto with Schubert, and we worked a lot with composers there: Carter, Cage, Copland, Berio, Henze."

Yet another fruitful working relationship was with Bruno Maderna. "I was close to Bruno towards the end of his life. In 1974 he was due to conduct *Pelléas et Mélisande* for the Netherlands Opera, and he asked me to be his assistant, with the understanding that I would do whatever he couldn't do. In the event he died a week before rehearsals, and so I took over. That was my first opera in Europe, and that was how I got to Bayreuth, because Harry Kupfer was in the audience, and he asked me if I would conduct the new production of *Flying Dutchman* he was going to do in 1978."

Davies is happy to acknowledge how much he has owed to fortunate meetings like that; another admirer is Alfred Brendel, with whom he is due to perform all the Beethoven piano concertos in two concerts with the

Berlin Philharmonic in September. But, equally, musicians like Brendel and Henze do not give over their loyalties without reason.

"Actually, if people ask me how I've managed so much, I usually say it's been through doing too much modern music. You know, in the early days I was always being advised that I shouldn't do too much modern music, that I would become stereotyped. But in fact most of the things I've done have come through working with composers and doing contemporary music."

Nor is there any likelihood that that will stop. In Stuttgart next March Davies will be conducting the world premiere of Philip Glass's third opera, *Echnaton*; meanwhile there will be more modern music with the BBC Symphony Orchestra in December. There is also his work with the American Composers Orchestra, attempting to correct the "appalling lack of knowledge among American conductors and American orchestras about American music". But it is not just missionary zeal that leads him to programme twentieth-century works so often: "I just like the music". One wishes that were not, coming from a conductor, such an extraordinary statement.

Aix Festival Crackling Mozart

This year's Festival of Aix-en-Provence has been turning into as much of a celebration of *Annee Racine* as of *Annee Rameau*. Three years before the composition of Rameau's *Hippolyte*, the 14-year-old Mozart had witnessed in Milan the premiere of his own Racine opera *Mitridate, re di Ponto*. And, just as that was to be his first major public test in the field of opera seria, so at Aix Mozart was put on trial once more in the first staging of the opera to be mounted in France.

The first-night audience took the work to their hearts. Its success was due almost entirely to an exceptionally strong cast of young singers and to the vital musical direction of Theodore Guschlbauer (who gave Aix its *Flute* last year), conducting the Nouvel Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio-France. In a work notorious for arias written primarily to glorify the egos of specific singers, many a latent glory of *La clemenza* here or *Don Giovanni* there rose to the surface through the sheer dramatic intensity of projection, while the work's long and taxing recitatives were charged with a momentum which crackled between stage and pit.

Within the ever-tightening love triangle of the princess Aspasie and the two rival brothers, Sifare and Farnace, Yvonne Kenny, from her first aria, "Al destin" through to her superbly sung "Pallid ombre", fleshed out vocal virtuosity with a performance of emotional breadth. Both in her duets with Aspasie and in her exceptionally wide-ranging solos, Ashley Putnam brought virility and brilliance to the castrato part of Sifare, while Sandra Browne, lowering and menacing as Farnace, compensated for some weaknesses with a characterization of bold and perceptive urgency.

Marvis Martin was a pliable, sweet-voiced Ismene and Joan Rodgers made a creditable trollop as Arbace; but it was Rockwell Blake, familiar from the Met, as a Mitridate of extraordinary physical and musical stature, who stole the show, hurling his athletic, heroic tenor (in its top register almost a *haute-contre*) into the leaps of "Tu che fedi" or moulding almost imperceptibly the harrowing phrases of his second-act vengeance aria.

Amid standing ovations, only the director, Jean-Claude Fall, was booed. His split-level *mise-en-scène* (an expensive, apparently, to hide the *Hippolyte* set behind), with its Louis XV chair and model ox dug into a snowy desert, did at times seem as arbitrary as the neurotic flurries of activity from the Arabian-clad protagonists at every available orchestral interlude. But, in the wide spaces of Gerard Didier's uncluttered decor and telling lighting, enough of the music was able to speak for itself.

Of Nicolas Joel's new production and Ralf Weikert's musical direction of *La clemenza* in the festival's new open-air venue, the Glyndebourne-like grounds of the seventeenth-century Palais Vendôme, the less said the better. Even the superb musicianship and bravura performance of Lucia Valentini-Terrani, standing in for Teresa Berganza as Cenerentola, could do little to lift a performance weighed down by orchestral playing both as heavy and as tinselly as the sets and costumes of Patrice Cauchetier and a cast who came nowhere near reaching the demands of Rossini's score.

Twentieth-century music came invigoratingly into the festival under the auspices of the Paris-based Centre Acanthes who, during their week's practical course with Luciano Berio in Aix's Conservatoire Darius Milhaud, presented a "Journée Anton Webern": a concert given by the Ensemble InterContemporain led by Boulez, and an early-evening recital. It was a brave undertaking to present in the open-air cloister of Saint-Sauveur the minutely imagined Five Pieces for string quartet and the *Liedes* of Op. 4, 12, 23 and 25. Jill Gomez, oblivious to the Angels, brought to her songs conviction, beauty and perceptive variety.

Students of the Centre presented the fruits of their studies in a public performance of Berio's *O King*, Sara Slowe's vocalise finding echoes and sudden changes of light and energy in the chamber ensemble directed by Olivier Guion.

Hilary Finch

Theatre Jauntily musical approach to Shaw

Bashville Regent's Park

Finding several American companies doing brisk business with pirated adaptations of *Cashe Byron's Profession*, Shaw set down and wrote his own adaptation, *The Admirable Bashville*, in a week to preserve his stage copyright, choosing the "rags-to-riches" of blank verse because he could turn it out quicker than prose.

The result was a spirited burlesque (much as Shaw insisted on billing it as his "celebrated drama in blank verse") whose main defect was its awkward playing length. Benny Green has now remedied that drawback, equipping it with numbers by himself and Denis King which bring it up to a full evening's entertainment.

Whatever its future on other stages, this jaunty musical has found its right home in the Open Air Theatre. It has been proved over the years that the shows that thrive best at this address are those that defy the pastoral environment, and *Bashville* defies it with a vengeance.

My heart began sinking during the opening scene in Whitton Park with Lydia (Christina Collier), its languishing owner, bewailing her solitary state to a sympathetic chorus of amplified bird-song. But once the pugilistic Byron pops up in the sylvan glade, combining courtship with press-ups and exchanging Shakespearean insults with his bottle-nosed

trainer, you know that everything is going to be all right.

From that glorious opening improbability, David Williams' production hits a vein of total artificiality from which it never looks back. The action moves on to society comedy in Lydia's town house, with Tim Goodchild's ornate double doors opening straight on to the bushes; and thence to the scene of Byron's great fight in the Islington Agricultural Hall, with pearly kings and tumbling girls in attendance, plus a blind lady in a wheelchair who arises and joins in the general scrimmage when the ring is invaded by a visiting party of Zulus dressed up to the nines for battle.

To these Shavian effects, Green and King add a rousing set of pastiche Victorian musical numbers, accompanied by boisterous players in a fairy-tale bandstand, and moving Shaw's textual pillaging of Shakespeare to be fully compatible with the legacy of Marie Lloyd. Some of the numbers do no more than pad out the playing time; but Mr Green produces some lyrics that have the rhyming wit and street flavour of the Edgware Road, and there are some that really reinforce Shaw's point such as Byron's mock-tribute to the British class system, "A Gentleman's True to his Code", which brings in the whole under-stairs staff into a Belgravia cane-swinging routine.

Peter Woodward's Byron has the great merit of projecting all the absurd heroics while also preserving Shaw's serious admiration for the fight game. The lecture-bout with Paradise (Vicenzo Nicoli) generates the same kind of excitement as Cyrano's ballade duel. Douglas Hodge's Bashville, the pugilist, earns his title reference

in spite of the smallness of the part.

Ewart James Walter's Ceto-wayo also gets some serious debate across in spite of his leopard skins and spear-brandishing retinue. What might have turned out a very tired old joke proves to have a great deal of substance. As always with Shaw, you get more than you were expecting.

Irving Wardle

Engaged Arts

W. S. Gilbert's comedy was written in 1877, when *The Sorcerer* was going into production and the later Savoy operas were just a twinkle in their father's eye. Last seen in London at the National in 1975, it views the expressions of feeling round the Victorian marriage market with a cynicism that makes Bert Johnson and Wycheley seem full of the milk of human kindness. Mercilessly honest and extremely funny, it is a brave choice of play for a small new management.

Engaged opens in the grounds of a Border cottage where brav Angus (Jack Soumar) makes a wee honest living from his illicit whisky still, some poaching and a few sleepers laid across the main Glasgow railway line to dislodge delayed travellers for opportune and doubtless overpriced hospitality.

Gilbert's well-to-do hero, Cheviot Hill ("I have heard of the Cheviot Hills somewhere", someone remarks) is a naughty boy who would not have lasted five minutes under the Mikado's anti-flirtation laws, but is

prepared to declare himself a young heiress's husband to protect her from an unwelcome suitor.

Unhappily, if made in Scotland, Cheviot's declaration has the force of law. His marriage to a total stranger, let alone the income of his friend Belwayney (Robert East) which depends on keeping him from either marrying or dying, is a question of where the border is drawn. Could you get more Gilbertian than that?

Though modestly staged (surreal sets might have done better), Roland Oliver's production grasps the ironies. Paul Arlington, a born if unobvious farcure, brings a broad, abrasive style to Cheviot's multiple protestations of fidelity and parsimonious view of marriage as owning his wife's 17/6-a-yard wedding dress.

Angela Cheyne as the heiress Belinda is too twentieth-century but capitalizes on sentences like "Before I actually consent to take the irrevocable step that will place me on the pinnacle of my fondest hopes, you must give me some definite idea of your pecuniary position". Julie-Christina Young, more impressively, confronts life as Cheviot's other (possible) bride with rare but crushing glimpses of the iron hand in the lace glove and a formidable knowledge of the 1862 Companies Act.

Even homely Maggie (Lindy Whiteford) and her mother (Greta Watson) advance on him with self-interest sauced to taste with sex-appeal and false modesty combined. *Engaged* gives no relief, but it uses the heartlessness of farce more expertly than most satirists have dared to.

Anthony Masters

Promenade Concert

BBCSO/Herbig/Preston

Albert Hall/Radio 3

The Albert Hall organ is a beast with a big appetite. On Tuesday night, at its annual Prom outing, it was offered by Simon Preston Mozart's *F* minor Fantasia, K608, but it spat the allegros out in chunks, and only in the central andante did Mr Preston persuade it to behave with decorum. Even then the effect was one of extraordinary efforts being applied in order to make a mammoth instrument produce sounds of evenness and delicacy.

Fortunately there was something more matched to this organ's taste and period in the next piece, Reubke's Sonata on Psalm 94, the single towering peak in German organ music in the century and a half between Bach and Reger. Here at once the instrument sounded happier. Mr Preston searched into its depths of cavernous murmuring

in the opening section, and discovered too a quite marvelous grating, scowling noise before unleashing more expected sorts of power in the main allegro. Possibly the giant was now overstretching himself, for there resulted a sound of escaping wind, like an eternal gasp, that covered much of the slow movement.

Rightly Mr Preston realized that he could do nothing but continue peacefully as if nothing was happening, and the injury was somehow repaired in time for him to end the adagio on an unresolved chord sustained in a Messiaen-like image of infinity. After this the fugue theme of the finale came swaggering in toughly, ready to do business. And business it did, bringing the Sonata to its conclusion in another brave triumph that this time had no accidents.

After the interval the BBC Symphony Orchestra assembled to play Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphony, a work well suited to stand by itself but perhaps not easy to come to cold. That

Paul Griffiths

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Britain's Prospects for the Admiral's Cup
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Golf-Course Nature Reserves
Arthur Gilpin's guide to the birds and mammals that may be seen on or around Britain's courses.
Demise of the Pastoral Dog is the border collie's future as a working dog threatened by its recognition as a pedigree breed? asks David Hancock.
Landscape and Masquerade
Nicholas Usherwood travels north to review the bicentennial exhibition of Capability Brown's landscapes, and Eileen Harris looks behind the masks at the Museum of London's Masquerade exhibition.

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Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office
200 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8EZ
Telephone 01-437 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 725.6 up 7.6
 FT Gilts: 79.16 up 0.27
 FT All Share: 452.30 up 3.97
 (Datastream estimate)
 Bargains: 19.273
 Datastream US Leaders
 Index: 97.32 up 1.75
 New York: Dow Jones
 Average: (latest) 1187.70
 down 0.30
 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
 Index: 844.26 down 2.70
 Hongkong: Hang Seng
 Index: 1059.11 up 2.16
 Amsterdam: 147.8, up 0.3
 Sydney: AO Index: 675.7 up 9.4
 Frankfurt: Commerzbank
 Index: 975.40 up 5.0
 Brussels: General Index: 132.20
 Paris: CAC Index: 130.1 up 0.9
 Zurich: SKA General: 293.2 up 0.7

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
 Sterling \$1.5065 down 0.02
 DM 4.01 down 0.0025
 Fr 12.0575 up 0.0025
 Yen 365.50 unchanged
Dollar
 Index 128.2 up 0.1
 DM 2.6610
NEW YORK LATEST
 Sterling \$1.5060
INTERNATIONAL
 ECU: 5.70236
 SDR: 2.695980

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
 Bank base rate 9 1/2%
 Finance houses base rate 10%
 Discount market loans week fixed 8%
 3 month interbank 10-9 1/2%
Euro-currency rates:
 3 month dollar 10 1/2-10 3/4%
 3 month DM 5 1/2-5 3/4%
 3 month Fr 16-15 1/2%
US rates:
 Bank prime rate 10.50
 Fed funds 9%
 Treasury long bond 88 3/16-88 5/16
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
 Export Finance Scheme (V)
 Average reference rate for interest period 6 July to 2 August, 1983 inclusive: 9.989 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
 am \$412.75 pm \$411.00
 close \$411.41-75 (£273-273.50) down \$2.75
 New York latest: \$411.00
 Kruggerand (per coin): \$423.50-425 (£281.50-282.50)
 Sovereigns (new): \$397.98 (£264.50-65.25)
 *Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interests: Barclay's Bank, Goode Durrant & Murray Group, Hoover, Johnstone's Paints, Law Debenture Corporation, Lorrno, Newmarket (1981) - (second quarter), Reed International (first quarter), Westminster Property Group, Finalists: Acrow (amended), Peter Black Holdings, Gnome Photographic, Malaysia Rubber, Nova (Jersey) Knit (amended), Routledge & Keegan Paul.
Economic statistics: Unemployment and unfilled vacancies (July provisional).

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Baker Perkins Holdings, Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge (12.15); **Bradford Property Trust,** Victoria Hotel, Bradford, W. Yorks (noon); **Bristol Stadium,** Portland Place, W1 (12.30); **Feedback,** Crest Hotel, Crowthorne, E. Sussex (noon); **Fuller Smith & Turner,** Griffin Brewery, Chiswick (11.00); **NMC Investments,** City Road, EC1 (noon); **Reed International,** The Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, WC2 (noon); **Time Products,** Chartered Accountants' Hall, Moorgate Place, EC2 (10.30).

NOTEBOOK

More Shipping companies could be entering the increasingly competitive north Atlantic traffic. OCL in particular may have to go in this direction if it wishes to expand. But the Trafalgar House bid for P&O, owner of the biggest piece of the OCL consortium, complicates matters. The building materials and DIY group has increased interim profits sharply. The building business is benefiting from further construction boom, while further growth from the new and bigger DIY outlets is expected. Greatly improved earnings per share point to a sizable dividend rise.

Secret deals aim to scare off speculators

Intervention by five central banks fails to hold down strong dollar

By Frances Williams
Economics Correspondent

Central banks yesterday again intervened heavily on world currency markets to stem the dollar's rise, but with only limited success. Expectations of higher American interest rates and political uncertainties elsewhere in the world continue to underpin the US currency. Dealers estimated that the five main central banks involved, representing the US, Germany, Japan, France and Switzerland, sold between \$300m and \$500m (£333m) yesterday, compared with an estimated \$500m to \$750m of dollar sales the previous day.

In a change of tack the US, German and Japanese central banks said they would no longer comment on whether or not they were intervening in the markets, but made it clear that they would continue to do so as circumstances demanded.

By this they hope to increase uncertainty and scare off speculators.



Volcker: little hope on interest rates

lution on a dollar rise. One Frankfurt dealer said: "If we know they are intervening, the effect soon wears off. If there is a guessing game the effect on the market continues."

On Tuesday, after two days of ineffective intervention, the

banks made their concerted operation public with immediate results. But dealers said yesterday that although the psychological impact of the news had temporarily deterred speculators, the fundamental factors buoying the dollar remained unchanged. They said the markets would soon start to test the central banks' resolve.

The Governor of the Bank of Japan, Mr. Haseo Masaru, said yesterday that abnormally high US interest rates had led to the disorderly conditions in currency markets which has necessitated the joint intervention. There were limits to what concerted intervention could do, he added.

This warning was echoed by Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board. Dealers' intervention could not work against the forces of conflicting monetary and fiscal policy in the United States. He told a House banking sub-committee that currency intervention was a "distinctly



Leigh-Pemberton: on the sidelines

subsidiary tool" to be used with caution.

But Mr Volcker offered little hope on the prospects for US interest rates which he said were "extraordinarily high", both for the needs of the economy and for orderly economic progress.

He said how soon interest rates fell depended on reducing the federal budget deficit. He expressed concern over the pace of monetary growth which, he said, was increasing "at a faster rate of speed than we'd like to see". But he said there had been no change of money policy since the Fed decided on a limited tightening in May.

The dollar yesterday firmed slightly to DM2.6610 and again rose above the psychological level of 8 francs which has prompted squeals of anguish from the French authorities.

The pound again traded on the sidelines, easing gently against most major currencies. The Bank of England, under its new governor Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, has been a notable absentee from the foreign exchange markets since the concerted intervention began last Friday.

The authorities do not wish to see the pound strengthen. Heavy intervention would also tend to swell the money supply

Rival groups bid for Spring Grove

By Our Financial Staff

Spring Grove, the troubled laundry-to-safety-products company, said yesterday that it is involved in discussions with an unnamed group and they may lead to a bid for the company.

It said that it was unlikely that such an offer would be worth significantly more than 50p a share, a few pence under the ruling market price. At that level, a bid would be worth about £16m.

The bidding company is said to be Sunlight Services, the laundries-to-dry-cleaning group, and it is said to be offering 60p a share.

After Spring Grove made its announcement, another company - believed to be Pritchard Services Group, industrial cleaners - is said to have made an approach.

The big cleaning companies have suffered from overcapacity, which has led to severe price competitiveness.

Two months ago, Sunlight Services' bid for Johnson Cleaners was turned down by the Office of Fair Trading. Another bid for Johnsons, by Initial Services, was similarly turned down.

Spring Grove came to the market via the Unlisted Securities Market, in 1979 when bankers Charterhouse Japhet made a preference offer to its 16,000 shareholders of the 15 million spring shares on offer.

Spring Grove traded profitably, but ran into trouble after it acquired St George's Group, the linen hire company last year. It discovered poor accounting methods, which led to an extraordinary write off of £800,000 and, instead of expected profits, the company made large losses.

The Office of Fair Trading has been approached to clear any possible merger. All companies involved in a possible bid refused to comment.

CD market 'worth £4bn to societies'

By Lorna Bourke

Confirmation of the potential importance of the building societies in the Certificates of Deposit market was given yesterday by Mr Richard Weir, secretary-general of the Building Societies Association who said the societies could raise up to £4,000m from this source over the next 12 months.

With the bank CD market at around £11,000m, the impact of the building societies' new presence in the market could be substantial.

The £4,000m figure represents the maximum allowance under the current directives from the Register of Friendly Societies who regards £4,000m or 5 per cent of the societies' assets, as a prudent limit. But Mr Weir believes this figure could rise to 10 per cent of assets in three to four years.

The societies wasted no time in taking advantage of their new-found freedom, granted in this year's Finance Act, to tap the CD market, raising £78m from non-residential CDs in May, £262m in June and an estimated £250m in July. Of the June and July totals, about £200m on each occasion was accounted for by CDs.

Until the Finance Act, the societies had not been able to pay interest gross except on bank loans. This effectively deterred them from using the CD market.

Building society finance directors expect to use CDs as a tool to manage liquidity rather than as a substitute source of funds for mortgage finance. The presence of the societies will, however, inevitably affect money market rates, and the societies will have to be careful not to push rates up against themselves.

Private house-building starts continue to decline on a seasonally adjusted basis despite a boost in the early part of the year, according to the latest figures from the Department of the Environment. The figures for the second quarter starts were 17 per cent down on the first three months of the year although completions were 13 per cent higher.

West-hill is the public sector which saw a fall of 33 per cent over the quarter compared with the three months to the end of March. Starts were even 11 per cent down on the same quarter a year ago.

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Bibby up 30% as growth continues

By Wayne Lintott

J. Bibby and Sons
 Half-year to 27.83
 Pretax profit £7.2m (£5.5m)
 Stated earnings 8.49p (6.65p)
 (adjusted for scrip issue)
 Turnover £198m (£118m)
 Net interim dividend 2.24p (1.233p)
 Dividend payable 4.10.83

J. Bibby, the industrial-to-agricultural group, has maintained last year's impressive growth rate into the first half of this year with a 30 per cent rise in interim pretax profits to £7.2m.

Turnover climbed to £136m from £118m while earnings per share, after the one-for-two scrip announced last May, rose to 8.49p compared with an adjusted 6.65p a year ago.

Mr Leslie Young, chairman, said that the interim dividend is being adjusted to reduce the disparity between the interim and final. Consequently, the interim dividend was raised 81.6 per cent to 2.24p a share.

Mr Young said that steady growth had been achieved in all but one of its activities and that the period benefited from the inclusion of profits from Lab-

oratory Glassware purchased last October.

Industrial services produced profits at approximately the same level as last year and it was the Farm Products Division which showed a decline due to the lower margins produced by the poultry and pig divisions.

Mr Young said the outlook for the second half remained favourable and with a continuing good performance from the industrial side. He felt that the agricultural division - last year's star performer - "is likely to show a similar performance to 1982's £3m."

He forecast that J. Bibby, with low gearing and a strong balance sheet, will be in the market for acquisitions and that shareholders should be satisfied by the full year's performance.

The company has managed to turn round the oils division which last year showed the company's biggest setback with an £800,000 dive in profits.

The shares of the company rose 10p on the news to 32 1/2p, near the year's high, with analysts forecasting in excess of £17m for the full year.

Raper bid spurs two new suitors

By Jeremy Warner

William Whittingham Holdings, the Wolverhampton based housebuilding and film processing group, has received bid approaches from "two companies of great repute and substantial financial resources", according to Mr John Wardle, chairman. The approaches came after Mr Jim Raper's Milbury announced an 83p share tender offer for up to 30 per cent of the company at the end of last week.

The shares responded to Mr Wardle's news by jumping 21p to 104p.

The letter, which described Mr Raper, a man with a history of conflict with the City establishment, as a "financial adventurer", went on to say that, in the long-term interests of shareholders, the board wanted to "remain an independent listed company".

The directors said they intended to justify the loyalty of shareholders in the future of the company in financial terms, but the letter conceded that at present "the very real prospects for recovery and growth cannot be obvious to shareholders".

But shareholders who tender for the Milbury offer are warned that they will lose the opportunity to receive a materially higher price for the whole of their shareholding.

Mr Jim Raper has been criticized by the City Takeover Panel as a person unfit to be a director of a public company. The Stock Exchange Council has also issued instructions to its members forbidding them from conducting business "directly or indirectly" with Mr Raper.

In May they were worth more than \$4.6bn.

Ministries were given until the end of July to reconsider other projects in five main sectors: Mining, telecommunications, technical schools, power generation and transmission, and transportation and communications.

The government is about to offer development of new pulp and paper-plants and sugar mills to the private sector.

The same is to be done with new cement works - although President Suharto yesterday opened a million tonne \$200m plant in which Blue Circle has a 26 per cent stake.

City Editor's Comment

The dole queue disappearing act

The latest jobless figures released today will yet again be obscured by the exodus from the official tally of thousands of older men, spirited away under new Government schemes.

This is only the latest in a long line of measures which have succeeded in lopping well over half a million from the unemployment total, without the creation of a single new job in the process.

It all began in autumn 1981 when men over 60 who had been on supplementary benefit for a year were allowed to opt for retirement and the higher rate of benefit. Result: minus 37,000.

Hard on its heels came measures in the last Budget to take more older men off the dole and into retirement. Result: minus 150,000.

And throughout the Government's period in office the scope and array of special employment and training measures, devised principally as a response to worsening joblessness, have burgeoned.

At the last count they covered 560,000 people, most of them youngsters. That is more than double the numbers four years earlier.

Individually, many of these measures are sensible and desirable, most notably better training for the young.

But in the context of a trebling of unemployment they smack of statistical chicanery. No single measure is sacred, but so many changes obscure the trend of the labour market, which the figures are intended to show.

The result has been a proliferation of independent estimates of the "true" jobless level, almost all of which put it at four and five million, rather than the official three.

Adding back the 190,000 older men previously removed and 120,000 or so people, mainly women, who previously registered for

work but do not qualify for benefits, boosts the numbers by 310,000.

A further 400,000 jobless, again mainly women, many seeking part-time work, did not register under the old system, while perhaps 50,000 people are getting sickness benefit who would otherwise be on the dole.

Finally there are those rescued from unemployment by special measures - up to 340,000, depending on how many of the jobs and training places are regarded as "real" and how many as unemployment substitutes.

These categories alone bring the jobless total to more than four million. And some estimates go even further. The TUC adds workers on short time (78,000 in May), while the Labour Research Department (no relation) includes half a million women who on past trends would be looking for work, on the grounds that hopeless job prospects have put off many who would like to work.

Ministers tend to counter all this by claiming that up to a fifth of those officially classed as unemployed are not seriously looking for work and have no desire to do so. Surveys suggest that perhaps 400,000 people may come into this category, many of them with private pensions.

No doubt if they could find a way of doing it, ministers would like to remove these people from the tally as well. And while they are about it, why not those judged to be unemployable and those claiming benefits between jobs - none of whom are "really" unemployed.

But even if they could reduce the official count to a million by sleight of hand, they cannot disguise the fact that for more than four million people the jobs and the income that goes with them, no longer exist. The economic problem remains.

Receivers put in to Quest CAE

By Jonathan Clare

Receivers have been put into Quest CAE after a row involving the new chairman, Mr Saad Gahr, only a few months after he injected £2m into the company.

It is understood that writs have been issued by Quest CAE against two companies concerning equipment supplied to them.

The board decided to ask

Barclays Bank to appoint receivers after running into severe cash flow problems, partly because of the high development costs of the computer-aided design equipment it manufactures.

Quest CAE is a 39 per cent owned associate company of Quest Automation, the publicly quoted computer systems business.

In January two of Mr Gahr's companies, Gabraphone Transducers and United Technologies (Massachusetts), UK, put £2m into Quest CAE in return for a controlling stake of 51 per cent.

Both companies are private and have as their main shareholder the Arab Research and Development Trust, headed by Mr Gahr.

Glynwed International Interim Results

Trading Results

Group profit before taxation for the 26 weeks ended 25th June 1983 amounted to £8,075,000 compared with £6,459,000 for the corresponding period in 1982.

The whole of the improvement in profitability for the first six months of 1983 came from United Kingdom operations and, in part, reflected the results of the Ductile companies which were acquired in the second half of 1982 and are now fully integrated into our divisional structure.

Overseas, both our South African and United States operations did little better than break-even, due in the first instance to the continuing difficult economic conditions in

South Africa and in the second to the recession in the U.S. steel industry.

Thus, whilst there was a net increase in profit before tax of approximately £1.6m, the United Kingdom improved by £2.7m, but overseas fell by £1.1m.

Ordinary Dividend and Prospects

The Directors have declared an Interim Dividend for the year ending 31st December 1983, of 2.45p per share (1982 - same) payable on 21st December 1983, to ordinary shareholders on the register at the close of business on 9th September 1983.

Present expectations are that profits for the second half of 1983 should comfortably exceed those of the first six months.

Trading Results. The abridged financial information set out for the 26 weeks ended 25th June 1983 is unaudited. The information relates to the year ended 25th December 1982 as an extract from the latest published accounts which have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies; the report of the auditors on these accounts was unqualified.

	1983 26 weeks to 25th June	1982 26 weeks to 25th June	1982 53 weeks to 25th Dec
Turnover	£232,041	£202,432	£444,301
Trading profit	12,394	11,273	23,751
Share of profits of related companies	-	43	(18)
Interest charges	(4,319)	(4,857)	(10,002)
Group profit before taxation	8,075	6,459	13,733
Taxation	2,072	2,053	2,257
Group profit after taxation	6,003	4,406	11,476
Minority interests	10	157	585
Group profit before extraordinary items	5,993	4,249	10,891
Extraordinary items	-	-	3,530
Group profit attributable to shareholders	5,993	4,249	7,361
Dividends:			
Preference - £000	35	35	70
Ordinary			
Interim - pps	2.45	2.45	2.45
Final - £000	2,051	2,051	2,051
Final - pps	-	-	4.90
Final - £000	-	-	4,102
Earnings per share - net basis - p	7.12	6.45	14.58

Notes:
 1. Taxation has been charged in respect of the first half of 1983 at the estimated rate chargeable for the year.
 2. Earnings per share have been calculated on the 83,712 million issued ordinary shares at 25th June 1983 (28th June 1982 - 85,296 million issued ordinary shares).

Glynwed International plc, Redfern House, New Coventry Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B36 2LZ

£200m Anglo-Swedish power scheme in danger

Indonesia crisis may hit British firms

By John Lawless

Indonesia has warned an Anglo-Swedish consortium that it may have to terminate a £200m hydro-electric power scheme.

The main British firms involved are Balfour Beatty and Bovis, which were to undertake the major part of the work under a £127m loan insured by the Export Credits Guarantee Department last November.

A Balfour Beatty spokesman said yesterday: "We are continuing work, and discussions are going ahead with the customer."

Talks are understood to be at a delicate stage. A rescue plan for the project will, however, be

extremely difficult to arrange, not only because of the Swedish involvement.

The original deal is understood to have contained about £22m worth of British aid, and was agreed at "soft" interest rates which, under today's conditions, would be much higher.

The power generation scheme - at Mirica on the Serayu River in central Java - also called for design work by Engineering and Power Development Consultants, of Sidcup, Kent.

The Swedish firms involved are Skanska, Asea and, on the design side, Sweco.

In all, 28 kilometres of access

roads were to be built, leading to an earth-filled dam of 5 million cubic metres. Three generator sets, of 180 megawatts capacity, were to be installed, with electricity taken away by 100 kilometres of overhead transmission lines.

The possibility of more British contracts being affected by the "reshuffling" of other Indonesian projects - as the country struggles to cope with a sharp fall-off in commodity revenues - is thought to be likely.

Indonesia, which yesterday got 360m SDRs help from the International Monetary Fund, has rescheduled four major

City of Copenhagen \$15,000,000 9 per cent. 15 Year External Loan of 1970

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, for the Sinking Fund of 1st October, 1983 a Drawing of Bonds of this Loan took place on 21st July, 1983 attended by Mr. Richard Graham Rosser of Messrs. De Pinna, Scores & John Venn, Notary Public, when the following Bonds were drawn for redemption at par on 1st October, 1983.

Bonds which may be presented for redemption at any of the Paying Agents for the Loan, must bear the Coupons dated 1st October, 1984 and 1985, otherwise the amount of the missing Coupons will be deducted from the principal to be repaid.

BONDS DRAWN

1420 Bonds of nominal value of \$1,000 each

Numbers		Numbers		Numbers		Numbers		Numbers		Numbers	
47	58	69	80	91	102	113	124	135	146	157	168
179	190	201	212	223	234	245	256	267	278	289	300
311	322	333	344	355	366	377	388	399	410	421	432
443	454	465	476	487	498	509	520	531	542	553	564
575	586	597	608	619	630	641	652	663	674	685	696
707	718	729	740	751	762	773	784	795	806	817	828
839	850	861	872	883	894	905	916	927	938	949	960
971	982	993	1004	1015	1026	1037	1048	1059	1070	1081	1092
1103	1114	1125	1136	1147	1158	1169	1180	1191	1202	1213	1224
1236	1247	1258	1269	1280	1291	1302	1313	1324	1335	1346	1357
1369	1380	1391	1402	1413	1424	1435	1446	1457	1468	1479	1490
1501	1512	1523	1534	1545	1556	1567	1578	1589	1600	1611	1622
1634	1645	1656	1667	1678	1689	1700	1711	1722	1733	1744	1755
1767	1778	1789	1800	1811	1822	1833	1844	1855	1866	1877	1888
1899	1910	1921	1932	1943	1954	1965	1976	1987	1998	2009	2020
2031	2042	2053	2064	2075	2086	2097	2108	2119	2130	2141	2152
2164	2175	2186	2197	2208	2219	2230	2241	2252	2263	2274	2285
2297	2308	2319	2330	2341	2352	2363	2374	2385	2396	2407	2418
2430	2441	2452	2463	2474	2485	2496	2507	2518	2529	2540	2551
2563	2574	2585	2596	2607	2618	2629	2640	2651	2662	2673	2684
2696	2707	2718	2729	2740	2751	2762	2773	2784	2795	2806	2817
2829	2840	2851	2862	2873	2884	2895	2906	2917	2928	2939	2950
2962	2973	2984	2995	3006	3017	3028	3039	3050	3061	3072	3083
3095	3106	3117	3128	3139	3150	3161	3172	3183	3194	3205	3216
3228	3239	3250	3261	3272	3283	3294	3305	3316	3327	3338	3349
3361	3372	3383	3394	3405	3416	3427	3438	3449	3460	3471	3482
3494	3505	3516	3527	3538	3549	3560	3571	3582	3593	3604	3615
3627	3638	3649	3660	3671	3682	3693	3704	3715	3726	3737	3748
3760	3771	3782	3793	3804	3815	3826	3837	3848	3859	3870	3881
3893	3904	3915	3926	3937	3948	3959	3970	3981	3992	4003	4014
4026	4037	4048	4059	4070	4081	4092	4103	4114	4125	4136	4147
4159	4170	4181	4192	4203	4214	4225	4236	4247	4258	4269	4280
4292	4303	4314	4325	4336	4347	4358	4369	4380	4391	4402	4413
4425	4436	4447	4458	4469	4480	4491	4502	4513	4524	4535	4546
4558	4569	4580	4591	4602	4613	4624	4635	4646	4657	4668	4679
4691	4702	4713	4724	4735	4746	4757	4768	4779	4790	4801	4812
4824	4835	4846	4857	4868	4879	4890	4901	4912	4923	4934	4945
4957	4968	4979	4990	5001	5012	5023	5034	5045	5056	5067	5078
5090	5101	5112	5123	5134	5145	5156	5167	5178	5189	5200	5211
5223	5234	5245	5256	5267	5278	5289	5300	5311	5322	5333	5344
5356	5367	5378	5389	5400	5411	5422	5433	5444	5455	5466	5477
5489	5500	5511	5522	5533	5544	5555	5566	5577	5588	5599	5610
5622	5633	5644	5655	5666	5677	5688	5699	5710	5721	5732	5743
5755	5766	5777	5788	5799	5810	5821	5832	5843	5854	5865	5876
5888	5899	5910	5921	5932	5943	5954	5965	5976	5987	5998	6009
6021	6032	6043	6054	6065	6076	6087	6098	6109	6120	6131	6142
6154	6165	6176	6187	6198	6209	6220	6231	6242	6253	6264	6275
6287	6298	6309	6320	6331	6342	6353	6364	6375	6386	6397	6408
6420	6431	6442	6453	6464	6475	6486	6497	6508	6519	6530	6541
6553	6564	6575	6586	6597	6608	6619	6630	6641	6652	6663	6674
6686	6697	6708	6719	6730	6741	6752	6763	6774	6785	6796	6807
6819	6830	6841	6852	6863	6874	6885	6896	6907	6918	6929	6940
6952	6963	6974	6985	6996	7007	7018	7029	7040	7051	7062	7073
7085	7096	7107	7118	7129	7140	7151	7162	7173	7184	7195	7206
7218	7229	7240	7251	7262	7273	7284	7295	7306	7317	7328	7339
7351	7362	7373	7384	7395	7406	7417	7428	7439	7450	7461	7472
7484	7495	7506	7517	7528	7539	7550	7561	7572	7583	7594	7605
7617	7628	7639	7650	7661	7672	7683	7694	7705	7716	7727	7738
7750	7761	7772	7783	7794	7805	7816	7827	7838	7849	7860	7871
7883	7894	7905	7916	7927	7938	7949	7960	7971	7982	7993	8004
8016	8027	8038	8049	8060	8071	8082	8093	8104	8115	8126	8137
8149	8160	8171	8182	8193	8204	8215	8226	8237	8248	8259	8270
8282	8293	8304	8315	8326	8337	8348	8359	8370	8381	8392	8403
8415	8426	8437	8448	8459	8470	8481	8492	8503	8514	8525	8536
8548	8559	8570	8581	8592	8603	8614	8625	8636	8647	8658	8669
8681	8692	8703	8714	8725	8736	8747	8758	8769	8780	8791	8802
8814	8825	8836	8847	8858	8869	8880	8891	8902	8913	8924	8935
8947	8958	8969	8980	8991	9002	9013	9024	9035	9046	9057	9068
9080	9091	9102	9113	9124	9135	9146	9157	9168	9179	9190	9201
9213	9224	9235	9246	9257	9268	9279	9290	9301	9312	9323	9334
9346	9357	9368	9379	9390	9401	9412	9423	9434	9445	9456	9467
9479	9490	9501	9512	9523	9534	9545	9556	9567	9578	9589	9600
9612	9623	9634	9645	9656	9667	9678	9689	9700	9711	9722	9733
9745	9756	9767	9778	9789	9800	9811	9822	9833	9844	9855	9866
9878	9889	9900	9911	9922	9933	9944	9955	9966	9977	9988	9999

The following Drawn Bonds have not yet been presented for repayment:-

Bond number 9345 drawn for redemption on 1st October, 1975.

Bond number 9346 drawn for redemption on 1st October, 1977.

Bonds numbered 8394 and 8395 drawn for redemption on 1st October, 1978.

Bonds numbered 7025 and 9470 drawn for redemption on 1st October, 1979.

Bonds numbered 661, 2232, 2256, 2257, 5129, 5277 drawn for redemption on 1st October, 1981.

Bonds numbered 30, 31, 32, 369, 951, 1036, 2157, 2234, 2256, 2260, 2261, 2282, 2507, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2555, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2587, 2626, 2692, 3495, 3497, 4662, 9560, 9480 drawn for redemption on 1st October, 1982.

NOTE: Any of the above Drawn Bonds with relative Coupons attached presented in the United Kingdom should be lodged for payment in London with:

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, 21 Austin Friars, London EC2N 2HB. or Hambros Bank Limited, 41 Bishopsgate, London EC2E 2EJ.

The usual interval of four clear days will be required for examination.

Office of Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited August, 1983.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest

Shipping lines face testing time

While the Trafalgar House bid for P & O is before the Commission, changes are taking place within the respective shipping businesses which will shape their prospects.

Trafalgar House, through Cunard Brocklebank, has a stake in Atlantic Container Lines (ACL) which might at last be set for a rates rise on its transatlantic cargo services.

What is fascinating is the shipping market, however, is the possibility that Overseas Containers Ltd (OCL) - in which P & O is the major consortium member - will be tempted to encroach on the Europe-North America trade which seems to be on the verge of big changes.

OCL is replacing four thirsty fast vessels with five diesel-powered ships, costing \$300m. From March, that will almost double capacity at just the right time.

United States Lines, however, has ordered a dozen new ships, each to carry 3,500 containers. Such a fleet appears to mean a new round-the-world service.

That would not only have an impact on the transatlantic market which Taiwan-based Evergreen Lines may soon join but could also bite into OCL's global routes.

But an OCL move into the transatlantic market would be conditioned by the fact that it wants to expand its business, but does not have much choice. It has extended its Australian and Far East business to South Africa (which would rule out

Nigeria) and to New Zealand. The possibility of absorbing a transatlantic and US Gulf service run by consortium partners is not thought likely. South America is fraught with difficulties. Considering its customer base, the transatlantic looks the only remaining option.

Tempting though the North Atlantic run could be to OCL - despite the possibility that more players could hold rates down - the consortium is also constrained by its ownership. Floating OCL shares has been mooted for a decade and looked a serious possibility before the Trafalgar bid for P & O.

The complication is that P & O has about 47 per cent of OCL, compared with 33 per cent held by Ocean Transport and Trading and 19 per cent by British and Commonwealth Shipping.

If the Trafalgar bid succeeds, the P & O stake must be offered to the other consortium partners. Ocean favours OCL going public, and in that event, OCL would be free to break into the transatlantic trade. And that would in turn rebound on ACL and Trafalgar.

Marley

Marley Half-year to 30.6.83 Pretax profit £10.2m (£3.57m) Stated earnings 2.6p (0.4p) Turnover £238.2m (£193.6m) Net interim dividend 1.2p (1p) scrip Share price 72.5. Yield 2.36 Dividend payable 3.10.83

Marley's 180 per cent increase in pretax profits for first six months of the year, ahead of market expectations, largely springs from the upturn in the construction industry, where the company produces roof and floor tiles and plastics products such as guttering.

But its reorganized do-it-yourself chain is also coming good, with some overseas operations looking better although trading profits are about the same as last year.

Borrowings, still high at the year-end at £93m, have been marginally reduced in a first-half period which usually sees them higher than at the year end. That, and lower interest rates, have reduced interest payments by nearly £2m to £5.9m.

Construction products

account for about half Marley's turnover, but the biggest beneficiary of the construction recovery was roof-tiling.

Gross margins also appear to have improved slightly and production costs have been kept down.

The problem in construction would come from interest rates lurching markedly upwards. That could bring a cooling off, hitting Marley next year rather than during 1985 when the next cyclical turn is due.

With analysts now looking for a virtual doubling of pretax profits to at least £23m in the full year and earnings per share generously higher, there is obviously room for an increased final dividend. With its high gearing, the company would be an obvious candidate for a rights issue later this year.

COMMODITIES

Sept	104
Mar '84	—
Comment: Slightly weaker.	
SWISS FRANC	
Sept	26
Mar '84	—
Comment: Weak.	
DOLLARS	
Sept	2322
Mar '84	244
Mar '84	21
Sept '84	—
Mar '84	—
Comment: Hesitant.	
STERLING	
Sept	881
Mar '84	222
Mar '84	84
Sept '84	—
Comment: Mixed.	
Sept	5472
Mar '84	56
Mar '84	—
Sept '84	—
Comment: Uncertain.	

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMODITIES	
Average futures prices at major markets on August 3:	
Live Hogs	55.50¢ per lb liv wt.
Sheep	135.00¢ per lb liv wt.
Plas.	66.44¢ per up liv wt.
Cattle and Veal:	
Plas.	29.0¢ per lb liv wt.
Plas.	20.20¢ per lb liv wt.
Cattle, down 7.0 per cent.	

Private sector may get bigger role in helping small firms

July 28, 1983 Trustee

Banking and Accountancy Appointments

also on page 25

ACCOUNTANCY
ACCOUNTANCY
ACCOUNTANCY

COMPUTER AUDIT-CANADA \$50,000+Benefits
A leading bank with operations throughout Canada offers an excellent career opportunity for a highly motivated accountant to play a key management role within the EDP audit department. Candidates should ideally be Chartered Accountants with extensive experience in the audit of operations and security of large mainframe data centres. They should possess well developed communication skills and a shirt sleeve management approach. TORONTO. Ref: JG.

INVESTMENT ACCOUNTANT c£15,000+Car+Mort.
This challenging new position has been created by an expanding finance group to ensure its smooth entry into unit trusts. Responsibilities encompass the development and implementation of systems, the effective management of a department covering all accounting for investment funds and liaison with external bodies. An energetic, hands on approach is required from a qualified accountant, 28-35, who can demonstrate a sound knowledge of investment fund accounting. SOUTH COAST. Ref: VMD.

CONTRACT ACCOUNTANT £12,000+
A significant opportunity for a decisive commercially aware accountant, aged c28. The post takes responsibility for all financial aspects of long-term contracts, tenders and project finance evaluation within this major international engineering contractor. Good EDP exposure plus an ACA or ACMA qualification are essential. SURREY. Ref: SC.

ROBERT HALF

BANKING
BANKING
BANKING

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Leading international consortium offers excellent career prospects to a self-starting C.A. with bank audit experience. Initially based in London working in close liaison with the Manager, the successful candidate should progress to become Audit Manager within the overseas Head Office.

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Make a direct contribution to growth with this forward-thinking merchant bank. As a member of an expanding team with specific responsibility for U.K. lending business, the development of other facilities will provide added challenge. Relevant candidates will have 3+ years lending experience gained within a banking environment.

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PLEASE APPLY TO FELICITY HOTHER ON 01-606 2813

ROBERT HALF

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COMMERCIAL CONTROLLER

Location: France

Medium sized British Engineering Company require a qualified ACA/ACCA Chief Accountant/Commercial Controller for its French subsidiary located near Paris.

This is a permanent position reporting to the General Manager in France and has excellent career prospects for the right person.

It is expected that the successful applicant will be between 25 and 40 years of age and have at least an understanding of the French language. Apart from responsibility for all financial matters, the job will involve control of stocks and reorganisation of procedures for the new computer.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications; assistance with re-location will be offered.

Please write for an application form from: Mr Roger Smith, Personnel Director, Ransomes Sims and Jefferies, PLC, Nacton Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

RANSOMES

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You will probably be in your 20's, have a good degree and several years' relevant experience. Remuneration will be highly competitive.

Applicants should write, giving full details of their career to date, to:

P. M. Fetherman,
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Analysts are required to consolidate and develop our specialised research in Consumer products/services areas. The successful applicants are likely to be qualified in a recognized discipline and be able to demonstrate a high level of originality and writing ability.

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Starting salary will be between £11,000 and £14,350

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North America/Australia

Our client, a major institution with substantial funds under management internationally, seeks an able individual to cover the North American and Australian markets.

The successful candidate will probably be a graduate, aged 23 to 30 who has been covering North American securities for at least two years.

The position will involve analytical and management responsibility for U.S., Canadian and Australian securities. The initial degree of involvement in fund management will depend upon experience and the position should appeal to an ambitious person who is seeking greater scope for advancement.

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Salary will be negotiable according to experience, and there are good fringe benefits. However, of equal or greater importance, are the career prospects which could include early progress within Dow's international treasury or other functions.

Please write or telephone for an application form to: Mrs. Diana Helmer, Personnel Manager, Dow Chemical Co. Ltd., Meadowbank, Bath Road, Hounslow, Middlesex. Tel: 01-759 2600.

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Applicants will have been in banking for three/five years, will have a thorough training and background in credit analysis, and will already have experience of the commodity area. They will need to be natural communicators and will be working in a highly active and imaginative business. Responsibility levels are high and the ability to make decisions is paramount.

Commodity Executive

In this case the experience level demanded is slightly more limited. The job would suit someone in their early or mid twenties. Applicants will have been in banking for around two years and will again have had formal credit training. The job is likely to appeal to a person who has an interest in developing specialist knowledge of this expanding area of banking business.

In both cases, because of the nature of the work, a knowledge of French and/or one other European language is essential. Candidates are likely to be graduates but evidence of the ability to communicate is the key factor. It is to be emphasised that the jobs will initially be in London. In addition to generous and negotiable salaries there are the usual banking benefits including subsidised mortgage.

Please write in confidence to Colin Barry at Overton Shirley and Barry (Management Consultants), Second Floor, Morley House, 26 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2BP Tel: 01-583 1912.

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